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THOMAS CROMWELL.

From "The Heads of Illustrious Persons of Great Britain."

Engraved by Houbbraken and Virtue,
with Lives and Characters by T. Bird.

Wm. Baynes. Paternoster Row.

1813.

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vol. I

Kent Records.

THE
PARISH REGISTERS AND RECORDS
IN THE
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER:
A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION
COLLECTED BY THE
ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
OF THE
ROCHESTER DIOCESAN CONFERENCE,
WITH AN INTRODUCTION,

BY
W. E. BUCKLAND, M.A.,
VICAR OF EAST MALLING,
HON. SECRETARY FOR PAROCHIAL RECORDS.

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PREFACE.

THE Rochester Diocesan Conference at the Sevenoaks Session in 1910 resolved that the Standing Committee should appoint a Special Committee to ascertain what Ecclesiastical Records were in the custody of the Incumbents and other Officers of the Church in the Diocese, and under what conditions they are accessible to the Public, and to report to Conference. The following Committee was appointed :—

Ex-OFFICIO :

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, *President.*

The Rev. W. A. CARROLL, *Clerical Secretary.*

F. F. SHERRIFF, Esq., *Lay Secretary.*

APPOINTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE :

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF ROCHESTER, *Chairman.*

The Rev. W. E. BUCKLAND, *Hon. Secretary Parochial Records.*

T. C. COLYER-FERGUSSON, Esq. T. K. CROSSFIELD, Esq.

F. H. DAY, Esq., *Hon. Secretary Episcopal Records.*

Co-OPTED :

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| R. A. ARNOLD, Esq. | The Rev. G. M. LIVETT, |
| LELAND L. DUNCAN, Esq., | F.S.A. |
| F.S.A. | The Rev. J. T. MATCHETT. |
| The Hon. H. A. HANNEN. | The Rev. D. TAIT. |

The Committee presented an Interim Report to Conference in May 1911.

The particulars of the Parish Registers and Parochial Records given in the Schedule are based upon the Forms of Enquiry sent to all the Incumbents in December 1910 (*cf.* Form of Enquiry, p. 42), and the figures have been carefully

checked, but it has not been possible to visit every Parish, and therefore *the Incumbents of the Parishes are responsible for the accuracy of the particulars given.*

Grateful thanks are due to the Incumbents, the majority of whom have evidently completed the Form of Enquiry with great care and accuracy, but a minority have done so in a manner by no means careful and complete. The Schedule of Registers appears to be accurate and complete, but in consequence of different orders of arrangement in the replies sent in, it has not always been easy to tabulate in the order adopted herein. A few of the Incumbents have not troubled to give any particulars of other Records in their possession, and some have done so in a somewhat perfunctory manner. But on the whole a great deal of valuable information has been given, and it is probable that the attention of all the Incumbents has been drawn to the importance of preserving the documents in their possession.

The Forms of Enquiry returned from every Parish in the Diocese have been bound in two volumes and deposited in the Diocesan Register at Rochester.

The general Introduction has been drawn from many sources. Special thanks are due to the Ven. Archdeacon FEARON, whose book on *Hampshire Registers*, published by Messrs. Simpkin and Co., has been taken as the model for this book; to Dr. J. CHARLES COX, F.S.A., who through the Hon. H. A. HANNEN has kindly given permission to make use of his book, *The Parish Registers of England*, published by Messrs. Methuen and Co.; to Rev. C. H. FIELDING, whose book, *The Records of Rochester Diocese*, published by Messrs. Snowden Brothers, has been frequently consulted; to Mr. A. A. ARNOLD for permission to make use of his extracts from the Records of Cobham; to Mr. W. MAPLESDEN NOAKES for the loan of the portrait of Thomas Cromwell by Houbraken and Virtue, and to Mr. S. AMBLER for his photograph of the same. Thanks are especially due to Mr. LELAND L. DUNCAN, who has personally visited several parishes where difficulties occurred; the DEAN OF ROCHESTER for his continual kindness and hospitality, and to the various

officials of the Diocesan Registries of Rochester and Canterbury, Lambeth Library, Somerset House, the Record Office, and the Society of Antiquaries.

For myself, as Hon. Secretary for the Parochial Records, I had no idea of the work involved when I consented to undertake the office, but it has become a work of absorbing interest, and has been lightened by the unfailing kindness and courtesy of the Incumbents and others with whom I have worked.

I trust that the Introduction may throw light upon and infuse life into a somewhat dry and technical subject, and may stimulate a more active interest in the valuable records which exist in every parish.

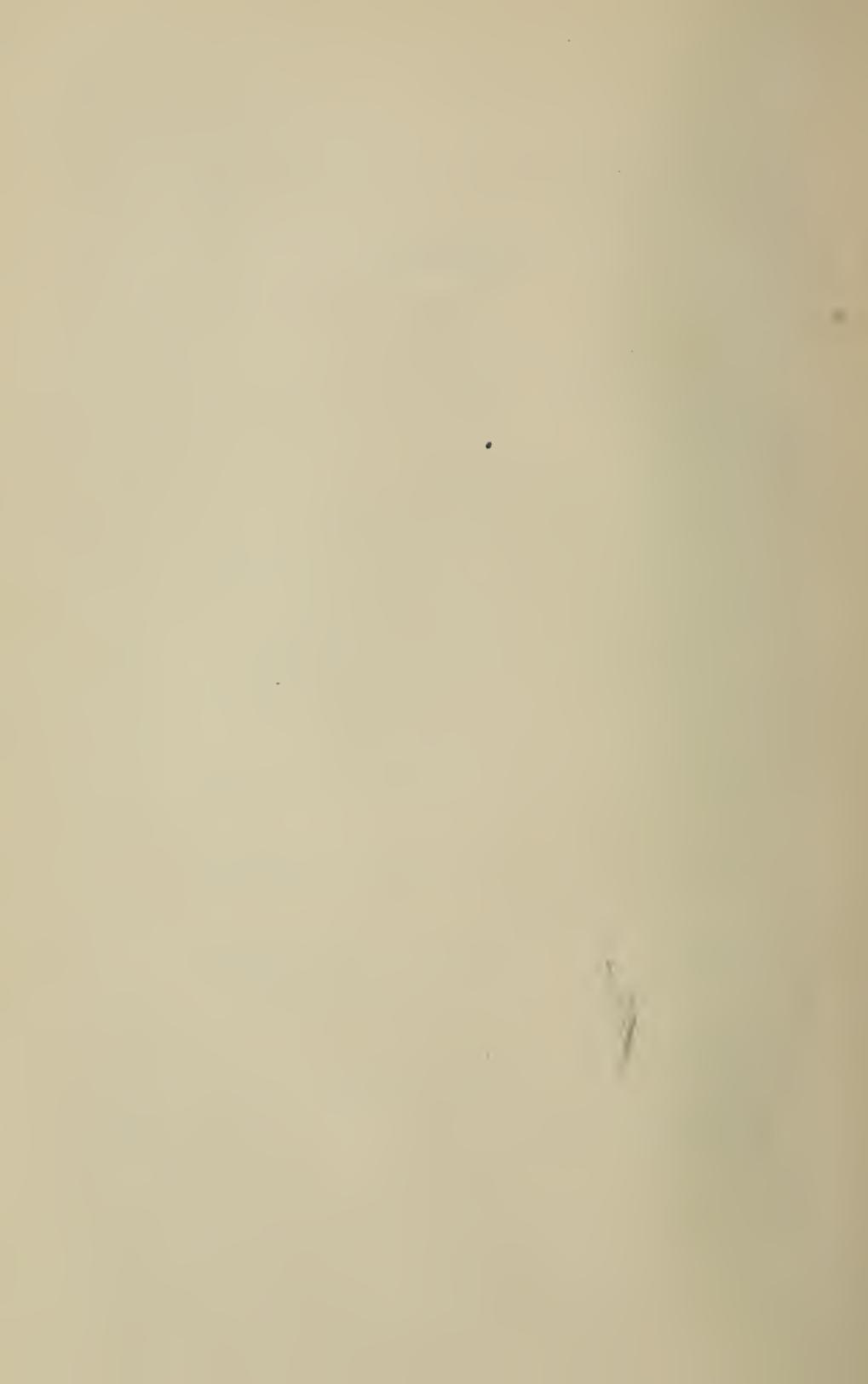
WALTER E. BUCKLAND,
*Hon. Secretary Parochial Records,
Ecclesiastical Records Special Committee,
Rochester Diocesan Conference.*

EAST MALLING VICARAGE.

May 1912.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

REPRINTED FROM THE INTERIM REPORT TO CONFERENCE,
MAY 1911.

We think it expedient at the present time to make the following recommendations as to Parochial Records:—

1.—CUSTODY OF REGISTERS. Rose's Act, 1812, section 5, made the incumbent the sole custodian of the registers, and ordered that they should “be by him safely and securely kept in a dry, well painted iron chest constantly kept locked in some dry, safe and secure place within the usual place of residence of such Rector or in the Parish Church or Chapel.” The Act therefore makes the Parsonage House and not the Vestry the normal place for the keeping of the registers. But wherever the registers are kept the Incumbent is the sole legal custodian of them and the responsibility cannot be devolved on any other person. It must be left to the discretion of each Incumbent to decide whether the Vestry or the Parsonage is the safer place. Searches should never be allowed except in the presence of the Incumbent or of some person deputed by him.

The iron boxes, ordered by Rose's Act, appear to be very general throughout the Diocese, but they are not “fire-resisting” safes. Many of the clergy realize this, but we suspect that the answer “Yes” in some cases refers to the iron box. The cost of a really fire-resisting safe is no doubt considerable, but we recommend that one should be provided.

2.—CUSTODY OF OTHER RECORDS. These are often kept in some cupboard or chest, the contents of which are unknown, together with quantities of loose papers and letters. These should be carefully sorted and, if possible, a substantial roomy cupboard with drawers should be provided for their storage.

3.—REPAIR AND BINDING. We are advised that this work is well and carefully done by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, W. H. Smith and Son, and Zaensdorf, all of London. A receipt should be taken from any firm to whom a register is entrusted.

4.—INVENTORIES. Careful lists of all registers and other records should be made and deposited in the safes and revised from

time to time. The Rural Deans might do this once in five years. The lists should be carefully checked by the churchwardens on the death or departure of an Incumbent, and by each new Incumbent on coming into residence.

5.—**INK.** Care should be taken to use good ink, which will not fade, *e.g.* Morrell's registration ink or Blackwood and Co.'s record ink, and to avoid the use of blotting paper.

6.—**MODERN RECORDS.** We wish to point out the duty of carefully preserving the more important documents and papers which accrue at the present time, for, though they may appear to be of little value now, they may be of great value and interest in the future. We would also urge upon every incumbent the duty of instituting and maintaining a Log Book, made of good folio paper and strongly bound, in which he should enter from time to time a record of events of interest relating to the parish, the Church and the people.

I beg to remain,

Your Lordship's faithful Servant,

ERNAULD LANE,

Chairman.

March 24th, 1911.

LIST OF PARISH REGISTERS.

REPRINTED FROM INTERIM REPORT TO CONFERENCE, MAY 1911.

LIST OF REGISTERS PRIOR TO 1813.

I. REFORMATION PERIOD, 1538—1557.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Ash . . . | 1553 | Eynsford . . . | 1538 | Offham . . . | 1538 |
| Barming . . . | 1541 | Farnborough . . . | 1538 | Shorne . . . | 1538 |
| Beckenham . . . | 1538 | Gravesend . . . | 1547 | Speldhurst . . . | 1538 |
| Brasted . . . | 1557 | Hayes . . . | 1539 | Teston . . . | 1538 |
| Cray, North . . . | 1538 | Keston . . . | 1541 | Tonbridge . . . | 1553 |
| Downe . . . | 1538 | Knockholt . . . | 1548 | Trottiscliff . . . | 1540 |
| Edenbridge <i>circa</i> 1545 | | Northfleet . . . | 1539 | Wouldham . . . | 1538 |

II. ELIZABETHAN PERIOD, 1558—1603.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Addington . . . | 1562 | Farleigh, East . . . | 1580 | Milton . . . | 1558 |
| Bexley . . . | 1565 | Farleigh, West . . . | 1558 | Nursted . . . | 1561 |
| Bidborough . . . | 1593 | Farningham . . . | 1589 | Orpington . . . | 1560 |
| Birling . . . | 1558 | Fawkham . . . | 1568 | Peckham, East . . . | 1558 |
| Brenchley . . . | 1560 | Gillingham . . . | 1558 | Peckham, West . . . | 1561 |
| Bromley . . . | 1558 | Hadlow . . . | 1558 | Pembury . . . | 1560 |
| Chatham . . . | 1569 | Halstead . . . | 1561 | Penshurst . . . | 1558 |
| Chelsfield . . . | 1558 | Hoo St. Werburgh . . . | 1587 | Ryarsh . . . | 1559 |
| Chevening . . . | 1561 | Horsmonden . . . | 1558 | Sevenoaks . . . | 1559 |
| Chiddingstone . . . | 1563 | Hunton . . . | 1585 | Shoreham . . . | 1558 |
| Chislehurst . . . | 1558 | Ightham . . . | 1559 | Snodland . . . | 1559 |
| Cliffe-at-Hoo . . . | 1558 | Kemsing . . . | 1561 | Southfleet . . . | 1558 |
| Cowden . . . | 1566 | Lamberhurst . . . | 1563 | Stansted . . . | 1564 |
| Cray, Fooths . . . | 1559 | Leybourne . . . | 1560 | Strood . . . | 1565 |
| Cray, St. Mary . . . | 1579 | Longfield . . . | 1558 | Sundridge . . . | 1562 |
| Cray, St. Paul's . . . | 1580 | Lullingstone . . . | 1578 | Swanscombe . . . | 1559 |
| Crayford . . . | 1558 | Malling, East . . . | 1570 | Westerham . . . | 1559 |
| Cuxton . . . | 1560 | Meopham . . . | 1561 | Wrotham . . . | 1558 |
| Dartford . . . | 1561 | Mereworth . . . | 1560 | Yalding . . . | 1559 |

III. STUART PERIOD, 1603—1714.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| Allington . . . | 1630 | Halling . . . | 1705 | Otford . . . | 1630 |
| Ashurst . . . | 1692 | Halstow, High . . . | 1653 | Plaxtol . . . | 1648 |
| Aylesford . . . | 1653 | Hartley . . . | 1713 | Ridley . . . | 1626 |
| Burham . . . | 1625 | Hever . . . | 1632 | Rochester, S. Margaret . . . | 1639 |
| Chalk . . . | 1661 | Higham . . . | 1653 | Rochester, S. Nicholas . . . | 1624 |
| Cobham . . . | 1653 | Hoo, All Hallows . . . | 1629 | Seal . . . | 1654 |
| Cooling . . . | 1707 | Hoo, S. Mary . . . | 1695 | Shipbourne . . . | 1658 |
| Cudham . . . | 1653 | Horton Kirby . . . | 1678 | Stoke . . . | 1666 |
| Darenth . . . | 1678 | Leigh . . . | 1639 | Sutton-at-Hone . . . | 1607 |
| Ditton . . . | 1663 | Luddesdown . . . | 1681 | Tudeley . . . | 1663 |
| Frindsbury . . . | 1669 | Malling, West . . . | 1698 | Wateringbury . . . | 1705 |
| Grayne . . . | 1664 | Nettlestead . . . | 1640 | Wilmington . . . | 1683 |

IV. PERIOD, 1714—1812.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| Groombridge . . . | 1777 | Kingsdown . . . | 1725 | Tunbridge Wells . . . | |
| Ifield . . . | 1751 | Stone . . . | 1718 | King Charles . . . | 1723 |

V. MODERN PERIOD, 1813—1910.

The Registers of Parishes not mentioned in the above list begin at different dates between 1813 and 1910, including those of the ancient Parish of Erith, of which all the Registers were destroyed or damaged by fire in 1877.

Parish Registers and Records IN THE Diocese of Rochester.

INTRODUCTION.

I.—THE STORY OF PARISH REGISTERS.

Cromwell's Injunctions, 1538.

Parish Registers were instituted by the Injunctions of Thomas Cromwell, Vicar-General, dated 5 September 1538.

Thomas Cromwell was the son of a blacksmith at Putney in Surrey. As the result of some offence he was obliged to leave the country, and after a chequered career as a soldier in Italy, a merchant at Middleborough, a scrivener and a money-lender, he was introduced to the notice of Wolsey, who employed him in the dissolution of the monasteries, by which the Cardinal's colleges at Oxford and Ipswich were endowed. He managed to extricate himself from being involved in Wolsey's fall, and no doubt Henry VIII. saw in him one who was likely to be a useful instrument in his hands. From that time his rise was rapid and unchecked as long as he served the King's purpose. He became successively Privy Counsellor, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State, Master of the Rolls, Vicar-General, Lord Cromwell, Baron of Okeham, Knight of the Garter, Earl of Essex, and Lord High Chamberlain. He was the King's chief agent in the dissolution of the lesser monasteries in 1535 and of the greater monasteries in 1538. Armed with supreme and absolute power, both civil and spiritual, he established a reign of terror in England, and thereby made many enemies. But his career was brief. He lost the King's favour by his recommendation of Anne of Cleves as a desirable wife, which he supported by a flattering picture painted by Holbein, was charged with high treason by the Duke of Norfolk, uncle of Catharine Howard, and was beheaded 20 July 1540 (*cf.* Gasquet, *Henry the Eighth and the English Monasteries*, chapter viii.).

As the famous Injunctions were issued in 1538, the very year of the dissolution of the greater monasteries, by the very man who was the chief agent in their dissolution, it is no wonder they were received with mixed feelings.

Early in the Injunctions was the order that the Great Bible, a revised edition of the translations of Tyndale and Coverdale, should be placed in every church (*Fearon, Hampshire Registers*, p. 1) :—

“ Item, that you shall provide on this side the feast of Easter next coming, one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume, in English, and the same set up in some convenient place within the said church that you have cure of, whereas your parishioners may most commodiously resort to the same and read it.”

This Injunction was received with acclamation. Far different was the reception of the 12th Injunction ordering parish registers (*Cox, Parish Registers*, p. 2) :—

“ Item, that you and every parson vicar or curate within this diocese shall for every churche kepe one boke or registere wherein ye shall write the day and yere of every weddynge christenyng and buryeng made within yor parishe for your tyme, and so every man succeedyng you lykewise. And shall there insert every persons name that shalbe so weddid christened or buryed. And for the sauff kepinge of the same boke the parishe shalbe bonde to provide of these comen charges one sure coffer with twoo lockes and keys wherof the one to remayne with you, and the other with the said wardens, wherein the saide boke shalbe laide upp. Whiche boke ye shall every Sonday take furthe and in the presence of the said wardens or one of them write and recorde in the same all the weddinges christenynges and buryenges made the hole weke before. And that done to lay upp the boke in the said coffer as afore. And for every tyme that the same shalbe omytted the partie that shalbe in the faulfe therof shall forfett to the said churche iiis. iiiid. to be emploied on the reparation of the same churche.

“ THOMAS CRUMWELL.”

Endorsed : “ Injunctions devysed by the Lord Crumwell, Vicegerent to the King for all his Jurisdiction ecclesiasticall.” (State Papers (Domestic), vol. xiii., part ii., No. 281, cited in A. M. Burke, *Key to the Anc. Par. Reg. in Eng. and Wales*, 1908.)

Rumour had even preceded the issue of the Injunctions that Cromwell intended to levy a tax on the ministering of the sacraments, and this was put forward as one of the grievances of the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 (*Cox, Parish Registers*, p. 2). So great was the alarm and mistrust, increased by the Injunctions ordering the destruction of all images superstitiously used and the restriction of the use of lights in church, and the order for the destruction of the shrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury, that in December 1538 the King ordered Justices of the Peace to search out those “ cankered parsons, vicars and curates ” who have “ blown

abroad that he intends to make new exactions at christenings, weddings and burials" (Fearon, *Hampshire Registers*, p. 3).

In 1547 the Council of Edward VI. reissued the Injunctions of 1538, and the visitation articles of the Diocese of Canterbury enquired whether the Injunctions had been obeyed. In 1555 Cardinal Pole directed the bishops to make enquiries, which were repeated in 1557. In the first year of Elizabeth, 1559, it was necessary to issue further Injunctions repeating those of 1538 and 1547, and to repeat the enquiry. In March 1562-3 a Bill was read in the House of Commons for the first time, ordering transcripts of the parish registers to be kept at the Bishops' registries, but was not passed (Fearon, *Hampshire Registers*, p. 84).

The Constitution of Convocation of Canterbury, 1597, and Canon of 1603.

The original registers were paper books, deemed perishable and unsuitable for permanent records, and in some cases it is probable that the entries were made on loose sheets of paper. So in 1597 a Constitution was made by the Convocation of Canterbury ordering parchment registers to be provided, the old paper registers to be transcribed therein, and duplicates to be sent to the Bishops' registries. This Constitution was embodied in the Canon 70 of 1603, thus: "In every Parish Church and Chapel within this realm, shall be provided one parchment book at the charge of the parish, wherein shall be written the day and year of every Christening, Wedding, and Burial, which have been in that parish since the time that the law was first made in that behalf, so far as the ancient books thereof can be procured, but especially since the beginning of the reign of the late Queen."

It appears that skilled writing clerks were employed in the larger parishes to transcribe the paper books into books of parchment, and that in the smaller parishes the transcription was done by the clergy, who often recorded the fact in the transcript; but the Accounts of Churchwardens at All Hallows, Hoo, shew that in some cases the registers were transcribed at "the office," probably that of the Diocesan Registrar. As a rule the transcripts were well written, but the transcribers generally welcomed the limit of the first year of Elizabeth as a maximum instead of a minimum, and omitted all entries prior to 1558, ignored all entries except baptisms, marriages and burials, and then destroyed the original paper books. The continuance of one handwriting for many years at the beginning of a parchment register is evidence of transcription from an earlier paper book, and in many cases the transcripts were evidently made long after 1603.

From the above outline of the origin of Parish Registers it is probable that they were not universally established till well on in the reign of Elizabeth. Apart from the fear that they might be used as a basis for taxation, the mediæval churchman abhorred

statistics, and the clergy generally met the Injunctions of the hated tyrant Cromwell by a policy of passive resistance.

The Rochester Registers, 1538—1603.

There are in the present Diocese of Rochester one hundred and seventeen ancient parishes which existed before the Reformation, and which ought to have as registers parchment transcripts going back at least to the accession of Elizabeth, 1558.

But the parchment transcripts of only ten parishes begin in 1538, viz., Beckenham, Cray North, Downe, Eynsford, Farnborough, Offham, Shorne, Speldhurst, Teston, and Woudham. Those of two parishes, Hayes and Northfleet, begin in 1539; and those of nine parishes begin before 1558, viz., Ash, Barming, Brasted, Edenbridge, Gravesend, Keston, Knockholt, Tonbridge, and Trottiscliffe.

The parchment transcripts of fifty-seven parishes begin at different dates during the reign of Elizabeth, 1558—1603, because either the clergy had passively resisted the Injunctions, or the transcribers could find no paper books or loose sheets earlier than the date at which they began to transcribe, or because they took the first year of Elizabeth as a maximum and omitted to transcribe any earlier entries.

Hence it follows—and it is a matter for great regret—that thirty-nine ancient parishes have lost one or more volumes of the early parchment transcripts which they once possessed.

In some cases the transcripts from the paper books were not made in a parchment book, but upon strips of parchment stitched together. Thus, the Barming Register, 1541—1611, consists of strips of parchment sewn together, so as to form a roll 22 feet in length; and the Teston Register, 1538—1685, consists of twelve strips of parchment, varying in length from 13 to 26 inches and in width from $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and sewn together at the tops.

Many of the clergy have failed to understand question I. 5 in the Form of Enquiry—"If the earliest entries are dated between 1538 and 1603, do they appear to be the original entries on paper or transcripts on parchment, or both?" There can be little doubt that, if the register is a parchment book, all the entries in one handwriting up to 1603 or later were transcribed from the original paper register, and that only the later entries in other handwriting are original.

As to the original paper registers, only three appear to have survived, namely, at Chiddingstone, Chelsfield and Edenbridge, and a few leaves at Chislehurst and Tonbridge.

At Chiddingstone the original paper book contains baptisms, marriages and burials 1565—1598, accounts of payments 1565—1598 and receipts 1566—1585, money given in church to strangers 1591, accounts 1599, and accounts 1619—1689; also lists of churchwardens, overseers and surveyors 1679—1734. Curiously enough the parchment transcript of this paper book has been lost,

but two small books exist containing extracts from it made in 1724. Mr. Leland Duncan has examined this book, and thinks it is the original paper book of Cromwell's Injunctions, and describes it as a large quarto of 256 folios bound in its original limp-tooled leather cover, with flap, buckle and strap, of which the buckle only remains (*cf. Chiddington*, p. 59).

Chelsfield, while it only possesses for the mother church a parchment transcript from 1558, also possesses the original paper book of the daughter church of Farnborough dating from 1538. According to the Form of Euquiry returned from Farnborough it contains baptisms 1547—1557, marriages 1538—1555, and burials 1538—1558.

Edenbridge possesses a paper register which seems to be more complete than those of the above-mentioned parishes. The first few leaves are much mutilated, and the earliest legible date is 1547; but from 1555 to the end of 1602 the entries are practically complete. As the next volume of registers begins in 1638, it is probable that in 1602 this paper register was transcribed into a parchment register, in which original entries were made till 1638, and that the paper register has survived, while the parchment transcript has been lost. This register was bound in two leaves of a Benedictional of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, and with the leaves of the Benedictional was beautifully repaired and rebound in 1907 by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, under the supervision of Dr. Warner of the British Museum, at a cost of £5 18s. 6d. It is the most interesting register existing in the diocese (*cf. Edenbridge*, p. 70).

Chislehurst has a small portion of the original paper book bound up in the transcript from 1559, and Tonbridge has several of the original paper leaves inserted in place of several leaves cut out of the parchment transcript from 1553.

II.—THE STORY OF PARISH REGISTERS—*continued.*

Ordinance attached to the Directory, 1644.

The period of the Civil Wars and Commonwealth was one of ecclesiastical anarchy, which seriously affected parish registers. The Long Parliament usurped the Royal supremacy and made itself the supreme judge in ecclesiastical matters. In 1640 a Committee was appointed to deal with scandalous ministers, that is, with the Clergy who were loyal to Church and King. Episcopal authority lapsed and Puritan mobs wrecked and pillaged churches. In 1643 the Commons accepted the Solemn League and Covenant, and the work of the so-called reformation of the Church was committed to the Westminster Assembly, consisting of English Puritan divines, Scotch Presbyterian ministers, and laymen. In 1645 the Commons abolished the Book of Common Prayer, and

made the Directory the only legal service-book in England.* In 1646 Presbyteries were set up all over England to govern ecclesiastical affairs, under the supervision of Parliament.

The advent of Cromwell to supreme power in 1653 affected the Clergy even more severely. In 1654 he appointed a Committee of Triers, consisting of thirty-eight Puritans, to examine every candidate for a benefice, and in each county Committees were appointed with power to summon the beneficed Clergy and enquire as to their learning and sufficiency. Many Clergy had been ejected in 1643, on refusal to take the Covenant, more in 1645, when the Prayer Book was forbidden, and most of those who had so far retained their benefices were ejected by the Committees. From that time till the Restoration the services of the Church were performed by stealth.

The Sufferings of the Clergy, by John Walker, M.A., published in 1714, gives an account of the fate of the Clergy in some of the parishes in the Diocese of Rochester.

Some evidence of the ejection of the Clergy and the intrusion of "Cromwell's Parsons" may be obtained by a careful study of the Rev. C. H. Fielding's *Records of Rochester Diocese* and the Registers of each Church.

The ejection of many Clergy in 1643 had produced much disorder, and even entire cessation of entries in parish registers. So Parliament, in 1644, instructed the Committee charged with the establishment of the Directory "to bring in a clause in that Ordinance for registering the time of baptizing of children and their parents' names, and for registering of burials" (Cox, *Parish Registers*, p. 7).

In the same year it was ordered that "there shall be provided at the charge of every parish or chapelry a fair Register Book of velim, to be kept by the minister and other officers of the church," and directions were given as to the entry of baptisms, marriages, and burials, and the right to search and take copies and certificates (Cox, *Parish Registers*, p. 7).

Appointment of Civil Registrars, 1653.

As, however, confusion still increased owing to the ejection of Clergy and the intrusion of ministers, the "Barebone" Parliament

* *Family Chronicle of Richard Fogge* in *Arch. Cant.*, V., 112 *et seq.* :—

" March 31, 1645. Jane xtened the follow^g day after the new fashion according to the directory."

" Oct. 3, 1647. Richard xt^e 14 Oct. follow^g by M^r Thos. Russel a great Cavaleere with the Book of Common Prayer & signed with y^e Cross . . . N.B.—He was xtened in Chamber over Kitchen."

" Oct. 6, 1654. Cecily baptized in the old way *cum signo crucis.*"

" 28 June 1649. My sister Anne Fogg was married to M^r Christopher Boys . . . M^r Hart married them y^e old Way with the Book of common Prayer in Tilmaston Church."

NOTE.—There was a fine of 40*s.* for each use of the Prayer Book or non-use of the Directory, which the Foggs seem to have paid repeatedly.

in 1653 ordered "an able and honest person," to be called "The Parish Register," to be elected triennially by the parishioners of every parish, who should enter fairly banns, marriages, births, and burials, and charge 12*d.* for each entry of marriages, and 4*d.* for each entry of births and burials, the entry of baptisms being excluded from the fee. This was no doubt intended to deprave the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The surrender of the registers to laymen thus elected was bitterly resented by the Episcopal and Puritan Clergy.

Marriages to be performed by Justices, 1653.

At the same time the "Barebone" Parliament ordered that all marriages should take place before a Justice of the Peace, banns having been published "three several Lord's-days at the close of the morning Exercise, in the publique Meeting-place commonly called the Church or Chappel; or (if the parties so to be married shall desire it) in the Market-place next to the said Church or Chappel on three Market days in three several weeks between the hours of eleven and two."

The Rochester Registers, 1644—1660.

The Forms of Enquiry asked by Question I. 6: "Are there any entries during the period of the Commonwealth, 1644—1660? If so (a) What is their general character? (b) By whom do they appear to have been made?"

The answers to these questions, and an attempt to compare them with the ejection of Clergy and the intrusion of ministers as given in Rev. C. H. Fielding's *Records of Rochester Diocese*, have not led to any general idea of what happened to the parish registers in the Diocese. In some cases the entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials continued as usual. In others they decreased in number or ceased entirely. But the entries of marriages are very few, and then are signed by a Justice of the Peace. In some cases it is evident that the entries were written up from memoranda after the Restoration.

The election of the Civil "Register" is recorded fully in several registers. Thus at Barming:—

"8th April 1656. Richard Webb Minister of the Parish of Barming chosen by the inhabitants of the Parish to be Parish Register of the same he taking his oath to perform the same office according to the Regular Act touching Marriages and the registering thereof and also touching Births and Burials.

AUGUSTINE SKINNER, Justice of the Peace."

And at Bromley:—

"Let it be remembered That M^r Henry Arnold of Bromleigh Castle being elected at a Vestry to be Parish Register of Bromleigh aforesayd was approved of by mee William Skynner one of the Justices of the Peace of this County and took his Oath before

me for the due execution of the sayd office on the Eleaventh Day of October in the year of our Lord 1653.

So I testify, WILLIAM SKYNNER."

Similar entries exist at Beckenham, Crayford, Eynsford, East Farleigh, West Farleigh, Gravesend, Hayes, and other parishes.

As to marriages, in some registers the entries ceased entirely; in others they were entered and signed by the Register, "Maior," or Justice. At Gillingham they were signed, 1653—1657, by Henry Fowler, Peter Petts, and Charles Bowles as Justices, who are described across the top of four pages as "Just Asses."

On the other hand, some registers record a great excess of entries of baptisms and marriages, notably the registers of Allington and Teston near Maidstone, Wouldham near Rochester, and Knockholt, and this excess may be explained as follows: The laity were not all disloyal to the Church and resented the ejection of the Clergy and the intrusion of ministers, and consequently resorted by stealth for baptism or marriage to a duly ordained Priest. Walker (*Sufferings of the Clergy*, Part II., p. 202) states that . . . Baurel (or Barrett), the Vicar of Maidstone, "was sent for by the House of Commons as a Delinquent, for Words which he had utter'd in a Sermon; and Sequestred about April 1643, at which time one Samuel Smith was Foisted into the Place." Now Allington is a small and secluded parish on the Medway about two miles from Maidstone, and the Rector, Richard Thomas, was not ejected, but died in 1656. Straightway on the ejection of their Vicar the church-people of Maidstone resorted to Allington for baptism and marriage by Richard Thomas. In 1643 there were 23 baptisms, of which 18 came from Maidstone. In 1648—1653 the entries of baptisms numbered 23, 54, 40, 45, 32, 19. In 1656, on the death of Richard Thomas and the intrusion of John Collins, baptisms ceased. Foreign marriages were entered before 1644, but were not irregular, for they were endorsed as "by license from the Faculties," "by license out of the Court of Faculties," "by virtue of a license out of the Court of Faculties." But in 1644 this endorsement ceased, and marriages in 1648—1653 rose to 12, 18, 37, 38, 30, 24, but ceased entirely in 1653, probably owing to the election of a civil "Register." Most of the parties came from Maidstone, many from villages within a radius of ten miles, and a few from Rochester and Chatham, and even London. At Wouldham, another small parish on the Medway near Rochester, there was an excess of entries of marriages (in Latin), as many as 45 in 1649, and there the Rector, Fraucis Cacott, was not ejected till 1656, when Thomas Shewell was intruded.

It has been said that the loss of many of the early registers was caused by the inability of the clergy to recover them from the civil registrars at the Restoration. If this were so, many new registers would have been started in 1660. But this is not the case. The occasion of the loss of several of the early registers is known. Possibly the registers of Aylesford, Cobham, Cudham, High Hal-

stow, and Higham, all dating from 1653, of Seal, 1654, and Shipbourne, 1658, were begun by the Civil Registrars. Only the Registers of Chalk, 1661, Ditton, 1663, and Grayne and Tudeley, 1664, were begun shortly after the Restoration.

EXCURSUS. "THE SUFFERINGS OF THE CLERGY," BY
JOHN WALKER.

Some idea of the persecution of the Clergy under the Commonwealth can be formed by perusal of *The Sufferings of the Clergy*, by John Walker, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's the More in Exeter, and some time Fellow of Exeter College in Oxford, published in 1714, a book not easily obtained, from which it seems desirable to give extracts relating to parishes in the Diocese of Rochester.

The book is "an attempt to recover the number and sufferings of the clergy." Walker (Part I., pp. 199, 200) quotes from the *Petitionary Remonstrance*, made to Cromwell by Dr. Gauden in 1655, that "above half of the Ministers and Scholars of England and Wales had been, upon one Account or another, Sequester'd from their Livings (which are above 9000), besides Fellowships or Free Schools," and that "many other also had been wholly deprived of their Prebendaries, Deaneries, Bishopricks, and highest Dignities in the Church, who, upon the first Figure or Head, could not be less than Six or Seven Thousand Persons." Walker himself says, "should all be taken into the Reckoning, it would not only bring up the Numbers to the Eight or Nine Thousand before mentioned; but in all probability make the Total nothing short of Ten thousand," and that, assuming each person ejected had four persons belonging to him, the number of wives and children "must have fallen little short of Forty thousand."

Many of the ejected clergy were imprisoned, and Walker says of London (Part I., p. 57), "after they had Fill'd all the Common Jayls and Compters with them, they were forced to Erect more New Jayls than there had been hitherto Old ones in that great City; altho' they had likewise considerable Numbers under Confinement in the Ships." The ships were "in the River of Thames where they were kept under Decks," which "were so low, that they could not stand upright and yet were deny'd Stools to sit on, or so much as a Burthen of Straw to lie on. Into this Little-Ease, in a small Ship, they crowded no less than Four score Prisoners of Quality; and that they might stifle one another, having no more Breath than what they suck'd from one anothers Mouths, most maliciously, and (certainly) to a murtherous Intent, they stop'd up all the small Auger Holes, and all other Inlets which might relieve them with fresh air." He also states that there was a design of "the sending them to the Plantations or to 'Algiers, there to be sold as Slaves to the Turks,'" but he does not think that this was actually done.

Many of the ejected Clergy tried to maintain themselves by keeping schools or acting as tutors, but this was forbidden by an edict of Cromwell in 1655. True that the Committees of 1643

were empowered "to allow the Wives and Children of Delinquents the Fifth Part of the Estate and Goods which should be seized," but the Fifths were seldom paid, payment could not be enforced, and piteous requests by starving wives and children were heartlessly refused. Thus the answer given by the Intruder at East Ilsley, Berks, to a little girl who pleaded "We must all starve if not relieved," was "Starving is as near a way to heaven as any." (Part I., p. 98, II., p. 190.)

Many Livings from which the Clergy were ejected were not filled for years, the Committees in the meanwhile purloining the incomes; some were filled with Presbyterian or Independent ministers; others were seized by "swarms of illiterate mechanic preachers, yea, even of women and boy preachers."

Walker gives interesting details of what happened in some parishes of the Diocese of Rochester.

John Warner, Bishop 1637, "did not only suffer with his Brethren by having the Lands of his See taken away, but by Compounding for his Temporal Estate which was considerable. However by thus parting with some of his Estate to save the rest, he was enabled to assist his suffering Brethren, and was accordingly a great Support to the Sequestred Clergy and their Families, as well as to other indigent Persons, often using this homely Expression, saith Lloyd, 'that he did eat the Cragg ends of the Neck of Mutton himself, that he might leave the poor the shoulders.' He was one of the Bishops who lived to see the King restored and died in the Eighty Sixth year of his age." (Part II., p. 61.)

Thomas Turner, Dean, also Canon of Canterbury and Rector of Fetcham, "was imprisoned, having three of his Houses plundered, and all his Goods and Books taken away. At his living of Fetcham he was seized (probably in time of Service) by a Party of Horse, for having sent 122l. to the King; at which they took the Common Prayer Book and Trode it in the Dirt before his Face; put the Surplice upon one of the Troopers, tyed round with an Orange-Tawney Scarff; and then setting the Doctor upon one of their Horses, they carried him, in this manner, Prisoner to the White-Lyon in Southwark; whilst to his great Joy, the Profane, Ridiculous Trooper in the Surplice, employed the eyes of the Mobb, and himself passed along the more unobserved." After much more Walker says "he survived the Usurpation, was Restored to all these Preferments again, (that of Rochester, as before, excepted) if I mistake not, and Died at Canterbury October 8. 1672, Aged 81." (Part II., p. 6.)

Elizeus Burgess, also Prebendary of Ely, was "the Suffering Arch-Deacon of Rochester." (Part II., p. 22.)

.... Larken, Prebend, "endeavouring to prevent the Rebels from Destroying the Rails about the Altar of the Cathedral, they discharged a Pistol or Carbine at him, but, by God's Providence, mist him." (Part II., p. 62.)

Of the other Prebendaries and Minor Canons Walker could give no details, as "The old Books of this Church are lost."

Walker also narrates the fate of some of the clergy of the parishes in the Diocese of Rochester.

At Brasted Thomas Bayley was sequestered and went to London, where he taught in a private school, but "being found out there by some of his Malicious Enemies of Kent, he was thrown into Prison for some small Debts." He was employed by Lindsell, Bishop of Peterborough and Hereford, to copy that Bishop's *Transcript of the Greek Fathers*, and at the Restoration became Bishop of Killala and Sligo. He was a friend of Jeremy Taylor. (Part II., p. 202.)

At "Horsemanden" Jeffery Anherst was accused of "observing the Rules of the Church, Drunkenness, and Malignancy," "horribly abused by the Party; who used to call him Old Pope, and Treat him with all Manner of opprobrious Language," "retired to South-Ease," and "was Sequestred." (Part II., p. 183.)

After the intrusion of one Elleston, John Couch managed to get possession, but "was sequestred from it, and so makes a second Sufferer here." "He was accused of having shewn his Dislike of Preaching in the Afternoon by one, who could not so much as write his name." At the Restoration he had much trouble to dispossess "the Intruder, one Edward Rawson, a New-England Man and a violent Presbyterian." (Part II., p. 220.)

At "Tunbridge" Edward Ashburnham "was Sequestred for paying obedience to the Canons of the Church; Neglecting the Parliament-Fasts; Encouraging his Parishioners to assist His Majesty; And therefore there is no Question to be made, but that he must have been an Alehouse-Haunter and a Drunkard." (Part II., p. 183.)

At Dartford Henry Deering was "Sequestred about 1646. He was also Harrass'd and Imprison'd; but survived the Rebellion and was Restored." Also John Denn was accused of "Drunkenness, Neglect of Cure and Malignancy." (Part II., p. 231.)

At Sevenoaks Nicholas Gibbon "was turned out of this Living of good Value. He and 11 Children were forced to take Sanctuary in a poor Cottage, which, with some small Parcel of Land, he Rented at Four Pounds a Year. There he was obliged to throw aside his Canonical Habit and to drive the Plow himself," and much more. But Walker doubts whether "he kept his Living and complied with the Times; particularly in laying aside the Common Prayer, praying Extempore, etc." (Part II., p. 251.)

At Hadlow Grimes was succeeded by one who "used to preach in a red coat." (Part II., p. 252.)

Under Penshurst there is a long account of Henry Hammond. In 1643 "a strict search was made for him and an Hundred Pounds offered for his Apprehension." He fled to Oxford. (Part II., p. 103.)

At Hunton Theoph. Higgons, who "had been perverted to the Romish Religion but was reclaimed by Dr. Morton, then Dean of Winchester," was sequestered. (Part II., p. 266.)

At Cliffe Griffith Higgs was sequestered. (Part II., p. 266.)

At Strood John Man was "charged with being a Common Drunkard and a Common Swearer; and what is worse, (and I am apt to think, truer) than both these, with having said that he scorned the Parliament and that the Parliament Men were not Gentlemen of Quality." (Part II., p. 309.)

At "Berling" Phil. Satterthwaite "was sequestred in the Year 1642, as well from his Goods and all he had, as from his Living; and was also most Barbarously used for his Loyalty to the King and exact Conformity to the Church." (Part II., p. 366.)

At Chatham Thomas Vaughan was accused of affirming that "to Preach nothing but Scripture without the Authority of the Fathers was like the Devil's sheering of Hogs, a great Cry, but a little Wooll. After these Crimes, to be sure, he must be a Drunkard; but that, I doubt, which made him so, and which put into his Mouth Contemptuous Words about the Scripture, was his having said upon the Dissolution of the then Late Parliament, That the Members of it were a Parcel of Logger-headed Fellows." (Part II., p. 388.)

At Tudeley William Walleys was "sent for as a Delinquent, by the House of Commons: His Temporal Estate also was put under Sequestration."

At the Restoration the intruded Ministers were told that they must renounce the Covenant, accept ordination, pay canonical obedience, subscribe the Articles and use the Prayer Book. Nearly six thousand were content to accept the conditions, but about twelve hundred were removed, after three months' notice, on St. Bartholomew's Day, 1662. The history of the Bartholomew Sufferers was set out by Dr. Calamy in his *Abridgement of the Life of Baxter*, chapter ix. In reply Walker wrote his *Sufferings of the Clergy*, to shew the merciless treatment which the Clergy of the Church had endured under the Commonwealth as compared with the merciful treatment of the intruded Ministers at the Restoration. "Why," he wrote, "should not the Church be as much at Liberty to preserve the History of her Suffering?"

As an instance he gave the following story about Thomas Turner, Dean of Rochester, when ejected from Fetcham. "At that living he was succeeded by one Fisher, a Man of a very mean Character. When he came with the Sheriff's Bayliffs to Dispossess Dr. Turner, the Doctor's Lady happed to be Big with child; and so near her Time, that she expected Hourly to fall in Travail; which obliged the Doctor to request of Fisher, That she might Tarry in the House only to lay down her Burthen; and this Common-Piece of Humanity was denied Him. But it pleased God that at the Restoration, when the Doctor came to take possession of his Rectory again, Fisher's Wife was in the very same Condition; and he had the Confidence to make that very Request to the Doctor which himself had formerly denied him; to which the Doctor (only first minding him of that Denial) replied, You shall see I am a Christian, In the Name of God let her Tarry and Welcome." (Part II., p. 6.)

Further light is thrown upon the position of the Clergy by *Proceedings principally in the County of Kent in connection with the Parliaments called in 1640, and especially with the Committee of Religion appointed in that year.* Edited by the Rev. Lambert B. Larking from the collections of Sir Edward Dering, Bart., 1627—1664. Camden Society, 1861.

This book gives the actual Petitions against the Clergy by the parishioners of several parishes in the Diocese of Rochester, viz.: against Dr. Vane, Crayford; Mr. Mounteyn, St. Mary Cray; the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, Impropriators, Shoreham and Otford; Mr. Francis Worrall, East Peckham; Mr. Francis Taylor, Yalding; Mr. Edward Wallis, Capel; Mr. Jeffery Amherst, Horsmonden; Dr. Gibbon, Sevenoaks; Mr. Edward Ashberham, Tunbridge; Mr. Richard Chase, Stone; Mr. Thomas Vahan, Chat-ham; Mr. John Denn, Dartford; and for the restoration of Mr. Brigham, Ash.

The allegations of the petitions vary, but may be classified thus:—

1. Pluralism, non-residence and non-provision of a Curate.
2. Irregular services and sermons, refusal to preach sermons in the afternoon or to allow a “painfull preacher” to do so.

3. Unsound doctrine, confession, freewill, lay-baptism, alms-giving, inclination to sin without consent no sin, the authority of the fathers.

4. Ceremonial; obeisance to the “Communion Table” and at the name of Jesus; the “Communion table” set against the east wall, “alterwise” and “rayled,” and with “wainscott” of pictures or carvings of cherubims; refusal of the sacrament except to persons kneeling at the “rayle”; a dove over the Font; preaching in a surplice and tippet.

5. Railing against the Scots and Puritans, refusal to pray for the Parliament.

6. Haunting taverns, drinking healths, watching sports on the Lord’s Day.

Cf. also Papers relating to Proceedings in Kent, 1642-6, edited by R. Almack, sen., 1854.

III.—THE STORY OF PARISH REGISTERS—continued.

Reversion of the Registers to the Clergy, 1660.

When the King came back to his own, the Church came back too as a matter of course. It required no Acts of Parliament to abolish the various ordinances by which the Church had been superseded and persecuted. In the eye of the law they were the acts of a rebel government and had no legal validity. The Bishops and Clergy who survived, about one thousand in number, came back from exile or retreat, and reclaimed their Sees or Livings.

An Act was at once passed to legalize all marriages which had been illegally solemnized since 1 May 1642.

The custody of the Parish Registers reverted to the Clergy. But whereas in 1640 England was virtually a baptized nation, in 1660 it was virtually unbaptized, and the Clergy faced the task of adult baptism. The office for "The Ministrion of Baptism to such as are of riper years" was drawn up and approved by Convocation in 1661, and the folios of the Registers are crowded with entries of Baptisms from 1660 onward.

Acts for Burial in Woollen.

The first Act ordering Burial in Woollen, to encourage the wool trade, was passed in 1666. In 1678 a second Act was passed, with more stringent regulations, ordering an Affidavit signed by a Magistrate to be brought. In 1680 a concession was made allowing the Affidavit to be signed by a Minister. The effect of these Acts on the Registers will be considered later on.

Registration of Births, 1681.

In 1681 parents were ordered to register the birth of every child with the Clergy, and to pay a fee of 6d., but the Act was generally neglected and nullified by an Act of Indemnity for negligence in 1706.

Tax on Marriages, Births, and Burials, 1694.

In 1694 an Act was passed to raise money "for carrying on the war against France with vigour," which imposed taxes for five years on entries of marriages, births, and burials, and also on bachelors and widowers, giving right of access to the Registers. The general tax was for burial 4s. 0d., birth 2s. 0d., marriage 2s. 6d., for bachelors and widowers 1s. 0d. annually, with very heavy super-taxes for Dukes, Earls, and other nobility. The Meopham Register refers to these taxes in 1698 and 1700, "I gave the Collectors a list."

Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, 1753.

Until the year 1754 a marriage by a priest of the Church was valid, without either banns or licence, although the parties were liable to censure and the priest to heavy legal penalties, but such penalties were useless where the priest had neither liberty nor benefice to lose. So legal marriages were performed by disreputable priests, especially by those imprisoned in the Fleet for debt, as is described in Walter Besant's novel, *The Chaplain of the Fleet*. Clandestine and scandalous marriages were also performed in Churches or Chapels which had real or pretended exemption from the jurisdiction of the Bishop. Entries of the marriage of

persons, neither of whom resided in the parish, may be found in most registers, though perhaps the licence of the Bishop was obtained. The only evidence of such marriages that has come to hand is in the Aylesford Register, where there was a great excess early in the eighteenth century, e.g., 37 in 1735, and 28 in 1736. Most of them were performed in the Chapel of Cossington, and not in the Parish Church. Some have thought that they were due to the proximity of the Medway, which was then a highway, but Cauon Grant, formerly Vicar of Aylesford, is of opinion that people came over the border of the Diocese of Canterbury to evade the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

This state of laxity was stopped by Lord Hardwicke's Act of 1753, entitled "An Act for the better Preventing of Clandestine Marriages," which ordered (1) all marriages to be by licence or banns; (2) in the parish where one of the parties resided, and (3) to be entered in a special printed book. This Register, the first in printed form, is a paper book, and has an elaborate title page with the Royal Arms of George II. The first part contains the form for the publication of banns, and the second part that for the entry of the marriage, with spaces for the signatures of the priest, the parties, and the witnesses. The record of the purchase of this Register may be found in the Churchwardens' accounts, e.g., at East Malling in 1753, "May 21, P^d for a Register Book, £0 14s. 0d."

Some parishes neglected to provide the Hardwicke Register at all; at least the answers from Cudham, Farnborough, Nurstead, Ifield, and Offham imply this, but probably, as at Offham, the prescribed form was written in by the priest, and the signatures were duly made. At Pembury the Hardwicke Register has disappeared. At Luddesdown the purchase was deferred till 1766, and at Allington till 1769.

It is amusing to notice how a novelist may fall into a mistake. Thus Wilkie Collins in *The Woman in White* hangs his plot on the forged entry of the marriage of Sir Felix Glyde, and describes the Marriage Register of Old Welmingham as "of the old-fashioned kind, the entries being all made on blank pages in manuscript, and the divisions which separated them being indicated by ink lines drawn across the pages at each entry," and the forged entry in 1803 as "at the bottom of a page and for want of room compressed into a smaller space than that occupied by the marriages above." Evidently Wilkie Collins had never seen the Hardwicke Marriage Registers covering the years 1754 to 1812, which provide four printed forms on each page. Even if the Register had not been provided, the prescribed form with the signatures would have been written out in full for each entry.

The Stamp Act, 1783.

The Stamp Act in 1783 imposed a duty of 3d. on each entry in a Register, but this Act was repealed in 1794. The Meopham

Register refers to it thus: "Baptisms since Oct. 1, 1780, a license being given for making the entries without the stamp being marked thereon on security given for the payment of 3d. for each Baptism."

George Rose's Act, 1812.

In 1812 an Act known as "Rose's Act" was passed "for the better regulating and preserving Parish and other Registers of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in England." It is printed in full at the beginning of the Baptismal Registers issued in 1813. It ordered Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials to be kept in every Parish, such Registers to be printed in a prescribed form, provided by the King's Printer in the first instance, and afterwards by the Churchwardens, to be kept in the custody of the Incumbent in a dry, well-painted iron chest, and copies of the entries to be made annually and sent to the Registrars of each Diocese and preserved by them in safe buildings. Persons making false entries or altering or damaging or destroying the Registers were made liable to be transported for fourteen years. No other penalty was provided, but yet provision was made that one half of the Fines or Penalties should go to the informer, and the remainder to the poor of the parish, or to such charitable purposes as the Bishop might direct. It also ordered lists of all extant Register Books to be sent to the Bishop of the Diocese.

This Act ended the parchment Registers and introduced the familiar books, which are devoid of entries recording other events of interest.

The General Registration Act, 1836.

In 1836, just on three hundred years after the Church had instituted registration of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, the State passed the General Registration Act instituting civil registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths. This Act left the Parish Registers of Baptisms and Burials in the forms provided by Rose's Act, and issued from the office of the Registrar General the Marriage Registers bound in green cloth which are now in use. Copies of the Marriage entries have to be sent each quarter to the District Registrar, and through him to the Registrar General. Since the passing of this Act Parish Registers have ceased to be the sole records, and certificates are seldom required for civil purposes.

IV.—CONCERNING CERTAIN ENTRIES IN PARISH REGISTERS.

The Calendar.

Until 1752 the beginning of the year was reckoned from 25 March. In that year the Gregorian Calendar or New Style was adopted. The error of eleven minutes too many in each year then amounted to eleven days. To correct this excess eleven days were omitted in 1752, September 3rd being called September 14th. At the same time the first day of January was made the beginning of the year. But the cry was raised, "Give us back our eleven days." Tenancy of land and hire of farm servants are still reckoned from Old Michaelmas, October 11th; village Patronal Festivals are still held thirteen days after the Feast of the Patron Saint; Churchwardens are elected and Church accounts closed at Easter.

To the young genealogist and others the change in the end of the year is a trap. How can a child be buried before it is baptized? How could a Priest make an entry in September 1656 and die in February 1656? Of course he died in February 1657 according to the New Style.

Chrisome Children.

Entries of burials as follows are not uncommon: "Buried was a crisome daughter." The Crisome was the white linen cloth laid on a child at baptism and worn by it until the mother was churched, when it was presented to the Church and used for ablutions. A child that died before the mother was churched was called a "crisome child," and was buried in the crisome cloth. It was the custom to anoint a child at baptism with the Chrisom or holy oil in the form of a cross on the breast and between the shoulders, and the cloth was to protect the chrism marks. The custom was given up in 1552, but the use of the cloth continued long after. The form in the first Prayer Book of Edward VI. was:—

"*Then the Godfathers and Godmothers shall take and lay theyr handes upon the childe, and the minister shall put upon him his white vesture, commonly called the Crisome; and saye,*

"Take this white vesture for a tokē of the innocencie, whiche by God's grace in this holy sacramente of Baptisme is given unto the; and for a signe wherby thou art admonished, so long as thou lynest, to geue thy selfe to innocencie of living, that, after this transitorye lyfe, thou mayest be partaker of lyfe everlasting. Amen.

"*Then the prieste shall annoynct the infant upon the head, saying,*

"Almighty God the father of our lorde Jesus Christ, who hath regenerate thee by water and the holy gost, and hath geuen unto thee the remissiō of al thy sinnes; he vouchsafe to annoynct thee with the uincō of his holy spirite, and bryng thee to the inheritance of euerlasting lyfe. Amen."

Burials in woollen.

Until about 1700 wealthy people only were buried in coffins. The parish kept a shell in which the body was carried to the grave, where it was lifted out and buried in a linen shroud wrapped round with strips of canvas. The Acts of 1666 and 1678, which were not repealed till 1784, were intended to help the wool trade. The penalty for disobedience was fifty shillings payable to the informer, and fifty shillings to the poor of the parish. Some parishes entered the burials in a separate book, but in most cases a note was added "affidavit" or "no affidavit," to shew whether the law, which required an affidavit within eight days of burial, had been complied with or not. The entries shew that there was constant difficulty in getting the signature of a magistrate and of spelling "affidavit." Overseers' accounts shew that wool for the burial of a pauper cost one shilling. Burial without coffins expedited the dissolution of the body, and so explains the long sufficiency of churchyards, which under the present custom of burial in coffins require constant additions.

The King's Evil.

That "King's Evil" or scrofula could be cured by the touch of the King or Queen was a superstition of the Middle Ages, probably due to the idea of the sacred office of Anointed King. It was supported by the medical profession until the time of Charles II. Even now the working people have implicit faith in quack remedies, and traditions of curious charms still linger among the peasantry. Who shall deny that there was nothing in it? Yet in times when the experiments of medicine and surgery did harm, it is possible that the cleanliness insisted on before the patient approached the King and afterwards did some good. The superstition has been traced as far back as Robert the Pious of France, 996—1031, who touched with the sign of the cross, and the custom was brought to England by Edward the Confessor, only to be dropped by the Norman Kings, but revived by Henry II. at the Canonization of Edward the Confessor in 1163. Thenceforward until the time of William III. it was practised as a solemn and inseparable part of the royal prerogative. Henry VII. instituted a set ceremony, crossing the sore with an Angel Noble, which he presented to the patient. The dissolution of the Monasteries tended to strengthen the superstition, and Elizabeth made free use of it as a support to her claim to the throne as rightful Queen. So also during the struggle of Cavalier and Roundhead it was of value to Charles I., and still more to Charles II., as a proof of the Divine Right of Kings. Charles II. touched over ninety thousand persons between 1660 and 1682. So numerous were the applicants, attracted not only by the hope of cure but also by the gift of the gold coin, that in 1684 a proclamation was issued appointing times and ordering applicants to present certificates from ministers and church-

wardens that they had not been touched before. William III. refused to continue the custom, regarding it as superstitious and grudging the expense, but it was temporarily revived by the ministers of Queen Anne. George I. would have none of it, and by that time the progress of medical science had discovered some means of treatment. (Raymond Chester, *The King's Evil*, Clarendon Press. Cox, *Parish Registers*, pp. 179—181.)

Bromley has the following entry:—

“ A Register of those that had Certificates (under the Hands and Seals of the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of Bromley in the County of Kent) of their not having been Touch'd by His Maſtē for the King's Evill according to an order in Council made the 9th day of January, 1683.

“ November 25th, 1684. Anne daughter of Mary Cook.”

At Horton Kirby an entry shews that applicants were examined by the King's surgeons before admission to the King's Presence:—

“ Ann Collyns ye servant of Thomas Miller yeoman had a certificate Ap. 9. 1688 under ye Minister and Churchwardens hands Francis Justice & John Chester in order to her being touched by his Majestie for ye K'gs Evill. This May^d went up to London but returned without being touched by His Majestie, the chirurgeons affirming it was not the K'gs Evill.”

The Plague.

Examination of the burial entries in most parishes shews that epidemic diseases were very prevalent, carrying off whole families, though the nature of the disease is seldom stated. The Churchwardens' and Overseers' accounts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries prove that small-pox was chronic. Oriental or Bubonic Plague, usually called “ Pestis ” in the registers, is known to have raged in London in 1537—9, and was intermittent during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Terrible outbreaks occurred in London in 1603 and 1625, and the Great Plague of London raged in 1665-6. There are entries of plague burials in the registers of several parishes. The Chatham Register states that 534 persons died between 6 March 1665 and 7 February 1666; seven, eight or nine burials daily at the height of the plague. At Rochester, St. Nicholas, there is a long list of plague burials in 1666. At Crayford there were seven plague burials in two families in 1665.

Licence to eat Flesh.

An Act of Elizabeth, 1662, ordered that Flesh should not be eaten in Lent, nor on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Ember Days, under a penalty of £3 or three months' imprisonment. Dispensation could be obtained on payments ranging from 6s. 8d. to 26s. 8d., according to the rank of the applicant, and the Curate of the parish was authorized to grant it on payment of 4d. provided

he made an entry in the Church Book. Archbishop Laud drew attention to this Statute of Elizabeth, which was also enforced by royal proclamations in 1660 and 1667. It became a dead letter in 1688, and was repealed in 1863.

At West Farleigh an entry states that "by virtue of a Statute Lawe made in the fiftieth year of the Reigne of Queen Elizabeth" licence to eat meat during Lent was granted to "Augustine Skinner and William his sonne (being both notoriously sicke and very ill-disposed in body by present infirmities and not able to live without the benefit of flesh)" Feb. 14, 1631.

At Crayford a licence was granted to "Anne Vane being with child and very sickly to eate flesh. March 18. 1632." Similar entries exist at Penshurst and Wrotham.

Briefs.

Briefs had their origin in Papal or Episcopal letters ordering collections to be made in churches for specified objects. These letters at the Reformation gave way to Royal Briefs, which continued until stopped by Act of Parliament in 1825. The rubric in the Prayer Book after the Nicene Creed, however, still states that "Briefs, Citations and Excommunications may be read." In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries records of them were entered in special Brief Books, as at Ashhurst, Cliffe at Hoo, Cray-St.-Mary, Rochester St. Nicholas, Shipbourne, Sutton-at-Hone and Wrotham, but generally an entry was made in the parish register or Church accounts. The first register at Tonbridge contains entries of Briefs from 1559 to 1688, but few are found before the Restoration. The Forms of Enquiry give few details as to the objects of Briefs, which can only be ascertained by personal inspection of the entries.

Archdeacon Fearon writes fully about them in *Hampshire Registers*, p. 57. He states that they were issued for objects which were extraordinarily various, for persons who had suffered losses, for Parishes or Churches on which some disaster had fallen by storm, pestilence, earthquake and fire; the demands for loss by fire and repairs of strange churches were unpopular and produced little or nothing; but those for various Protestant bodies met with a generous response. Thus at East Peckham, 1690, a Brief for "Irish Protestants" produced £2 14s. 6d. There were also numerous Briefs for the redemption of captives from "the Turkish" Corsairs. Cromwell did something to stop the kidnapping of Englishmen off the coasts of Devonshire and Cornwall, which had prevailed since the time of James I., but captures continued until the French occupied Algiers in the nineteenth century. Thus at North Cray there is a brief with the names of donors dated "Dec. 1670 towards ye Redemption of the English under Turkish Slavery, £4 10s.," and in 1709 for the "Relief of several thousand poor distressed Palatines lying in camp on Blackheath near London that same summer, £13 6s. 4d." In some cases collections

were made from house to house. Some Briefs produced a good deal for objects of local interest and sufferers from the plague; some less than one shilling, some nothing. Sometimes Churchwardens salved their consciences by giving from the Church rate, "To five briefs . 5^s 0^d." Their issue in groups of four or six, read on Sundays at suitable intervals, made the whole system a public scandal.

Tithes and Fees.

Lists of these are given in a few Registers. That at West Farleigh is most interesting :—

"A Customary for the Remembrance of our Posterity, recorded in the Church book of Westffarleigh, for the payng of tythes and other Ecclesiastical duties, due to the Vicar of the s^d parish by the assent of Richard Byston Vicar thereof and other parishioners whose names are subscribed, the 15th day of febr in the two and thirtieth year of Queen Eliz. Imprimis for the first time that any-one receiveth the Communion a penny and ever after two pence. For baptizing a child fourpence or the crisone which he will. For the churching of a woman a penny. For her offerings a half-penny. For a couple joined in matrimony eighteen pence. To the Clerk for them fourpence. For burying a man or woman eight-pence. For the burying a child fourpence. For the milk of a cow a penny. For the fall of a calf a penny. For every bullock of one year's growth a penny. For every one of two years growth two-pence etc. After the same order for colts. For sheepwool to pay the tenth. For lambs to have the tenth due at St Mark's Day and them that come after to be accounted the next year. Of seven lambs to have one allowing penny half penny to the owner, and under seven to have a half penny a Lamb. For piggs to have the tenth and of seven to have one, allowing halfpenny farthing to the owner and under seven to have a half penny a piece. For grass to have the tenth cock. For a herb garden a penny, if they be sowed with any kind of grain to have the tenth as in other things. For Hemp to have the tenth handful. Of acre woods and copice woods to pay tyths and not else, as of tops of trees, not." Signed by the Vicar and five parishioners.

At Crayford there is a list :—

"Fees agreed upon at a Vestry in ye parish Church of Crayford Anno Domini 1632. Burialls in ye Church yard. For ye Great Bell 5^s 0^d, to ye Minister 2^s 6^d, to ye Clerke (1 . 0 ?) For ye Nell 1^s 0^d, For digging ye grave 1^s 0^d, ringing at ye Buriall 1^s 6^d, registering 0 . 4^d, making up ye grave 0 . 4^d, taking up a grave stone 2^s 0^d, double duties to Strangers, double duties in ye church & double duties of ye church. To Strangers buried in ye church & For ye poor 6^s 8^d." Another section follows, headed by "For ye little Bell," "to ye Minister 2^s 6^d, to ye Clerk . . . , For ye Nell 0 . 0^s . 6^d, For ye grave 0^s . 6^d, ringing at ye Buriall 1^s 0^d, registering 0 . 4^d, making up ye grave 0^s 4^d & double duties as aforesaid."

V.—CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTS OF CHURCHWARDENS.

Churchwardens' Accounts and Church Books exist in great numbers in the Parishes of the Diocese, often treated as so much lumber, and having been stored and neglected for years in some cupboard or chest, in a very dirty and dilapidated condition. The earliest are at Chiddingstone, 1556, and Hoo, All Hallows, 1555. Archdeacon Fearon (*Hampshire Registers*, p. 63) points out that they are "a quiet record year by year of the mighty evolution" of the Reformation. His personal inspection as Archdeacon has enabled him to extract references to the purchase of many things used before the Reformation, such as frankincense, wax, tapers, holy water stoups, roods, images and albes, and to the cost of taking down images and candlesticks and altars, and of repairing the scars left thereby, of melting down the chalices and changing them into communion cups, of taking down the screens and roods, of whitewashing the wall paintings, of putting up the royal arms, and of painting the commandments. They are also of interest and value as recording the rateable value of the parishes year by year, with the names and assessments of the occupiers, thus supplementing the family records of the Registers. In fact they record the history of the parish churches for the last three or four centuries, and it will repay any Incumbent to read them through and make extracts under different heads, which will shew the gradual decadence of his church from the magnificence of the Middle Ages before the Great Pillage under Edward VI., to the green baize and whitewash of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and their gradual renewal. These old accounts, together with those accruing now, deserve most careful preservation.

It has been impossible to make a personal inspection of these books, but extracts are given from those of four parishes, which may incite to further research.

At All Hallows, Hoo, the original paper book dating from 1555 has been examined by Mr. Leland Duncan, and he and the Vicar, the Rev. F. J. Hammond, have kindly given the following account of it:—

"These accounts, which commence in 1555, are on the whole well preserved and legible, but the book, which is of paper, needs rebinding and repairs. The accounts seem to have been very carefully and systematically kept, and contain for almost each year the names of the churchwardens and of their successors for the year following. The financial year ended at All Saints' Day or 'Halowtyde,' as it is called in the accounts, when the wardens were elected."

The receipts for 1555, 2nd year of Queen Mary, are missing, and we come at once to the expenses or 'Layings out of Thomas Frank in the yere of or Lord 1555.'

The first item is 'For the pasturyng of the Church Cow iiijs.' From subsequent general entries in the receipts and the total absence of any reference to Church collections it would seem that the revenues of the Church for both maintaining the fabric and the services were derived from the farming out of cattle, mostly cows

and sheep. These apparently were held in trust by the churchwardens and farmed out upon the farmers in the parish, the profits being devoted to the Church expenses. This must have entailed a good deal of work on the wardens, and as we see from later entries involved bad debts towards their funds.

The entries for this year (1555) which are of interest are as follows:—

‘A yerde of whyte lenyn cloth, for the Pyxe and for makynge of the same, xx^d.

A pounde of waxe agenst Ester and for stryking of the same, ij^s ij^d.

For a Portes, iijs.

In frankynsens and wasshyng of ye surples agenst Ester, ij^d.

In chenes for the sensurs, xiij^d.

To the tynkar for makynge of the sensurs, xiiij^d.

For mendyng of the sensurs, ij^d.

For the crysmatory, vj^d.

For makynge the standard for the Pascall, ij^d.

To peters wyf for wasshyng the lynnens, ij^d.

The accounts for 1556 are missing, but with 1557 we enter on the receipts which explain what has already been said as to the source of revenue, thus:—

‘Rec^d of Thomas Franke for farme of x shepe, j^s vj^d.

‘, John Davy for farme of shepe, ij^s vi^d.

‘, John Smyth for farme of xxvj shepe, vj^s vj^d.

We find incidentally a fee for burials:—

‘Rec^d of Mystrys Copynger for her dowters buryall, vj^s viij^d.

and on the other side the clerk’s expenses:—

‘Paid to John Peter for beryng out the yerth from the grave, vj^d.

The Font, which dates from about c. 1200, was apparently repaired this year, as there is ‘It^m for pewter for the funt, j^d.’ In 1557 there is a new ‘loke for the funt, iiiij^d.’

‘It^m to Wyllm Bozer for makynge the sepulcar’ refers us to the Easter sepulchre, which in this case was perhaps merely a temporary structure, as it only cost ‘ij^d.’

Incense again appears at Easter, and there is the cost given of the Rood cloth which was hung in front of the Rood during Lent and Passiontide:—

‘It^m for canvasse & payntyng of the roode clothe, vj^s vj^d.

This cloth was sold in 1576 when Edward Danne was churchwarden, as in that year we read—

‘Recevede of Mayster gladwell for one paynted clothe, xx^d.

In 1557 'The holy water stoke and the lampe, iijs id.'
 'To the carpenter for makynge Alhalowes, xiijs.
 A hoke and stapyll for the same, jjd.'

This probably refers to some representation of All Saints erected for the dedication festival.

'To Burburge for makynge the altar, ij^s iiijd.'

This was removed in 1560, when there is the entry—

'For takynge down the alter, vijd.'

In 1558 there is an entry : 'Quit rent for the Church Howse, vs.' By his will dated 19 March 1518 Thomas Crippe of Allhallows, Hoo, left x^s to the makynge of a chirch hous in the said parish.' The entry goes on for some years.

In the same year, 1558, the Rood was restored :—

'For the rowde and Mary and John, xxvij^s viijd.'

'For the jorner that brought them, xijd.'

'For his brokefast that sett them up, vjd.'

There are from the first frequent references to the mowing and carting of rushes for the church to be used at the great festivals. The cost was small, generally about 4*d.* for mowing and five or six pence for carting them.

In 1560 we meet with 'Item for the Communion boke, iiijs,' and now for the first time the item which becomes general, 'Item for bred & wyne agenst Ester, xx*d.*'

Very frequent and numerous repairs to the bells are mentioned, clappers, bell-wheels, ironwork and other things necessary. The ringers are also mentioned as receiving refreshment on the anniversary of the Queen's (Elizabeth) 'Coronation Day.' There were obviously several bells, and the bass bell is once mentioned.

In 1565 there was a change in the sacred vessels by order of the Bishop (Guest), who held a visitation in that year.

'Itm paid for all manere of deuties as in retornyng the chales into a cuppe for the church according to the lord Bysshope commandment, iiijs v*d.*'

We may also notice other changes, viz., in 1577—

'A cover for the communion cup, viij^s iiijd.'

In 1571 we find, 'Ye forms for ye Communion Table, xjd,' and in the following year we note the dispersal of some of the Church ornaments under the growing Puritan influence :—

'Itm recevd of Jhon Andrewe for an old vestiment that p'teyned to the Church, xvij*d.*

Itm recevd of John Atwoode of Bynnie for certaine ornaments of the Church that he bought, vi*s.*'

From an entry in 1577 it would seem that Malmsey was the wine used at the Holy Communion.

In 1579, 'Itm two books as concerning the earthquake, vijd.'

Itm for a cusshen for the pulpit

Itm for a communion booke, vj^s iiijd.'

There is also a note that 'the Stock was six score and ijij shepe and two kine and that the farme of these for two yeres was v^l ijij after the price of ijid a shepe and ijij a cowe.'

1581. 'Item for a green cushion, xvijd.'

1582. 'Item to Webb the mason for whitewashing the church in part payment, viij*s*.'

1583. 'Payd for ij bundles of rushes at the birth of Christe, iiijd.'

From entries in this year (1583) there appear to have been 'Communions' at Christmas, 'The 2^d Sabbath after the Epiphanie,' the '2 Sabbath in Lent,' at Easter, the '2 Sabbath after Easter,' 'Whitesontide' and 'the third after Trinitie.'

1591. 'A Bible of the largest volume, xxix*s*.'

'Item layd out for a Tablecloth for the Communion board, vs.'

1597. 'Item for the nayles for the commandments, ij*d*.'

'Item for the commandments to the Painter, iiijs.'

'Item for new cloth to write the commandments anew, xvjd.'

1600. 'Item for new writing or church book at the office, xijs.'

'Item the book itself of Parchment, vjs.'

This refers to the copying of the old paper register book into a parchment book.

1604. 'Item for or new Common Prayer Book, viij*s* iiijd.'

In 1615 there is an inventory of Church goods then existing, which includes 'a silver cup w^h a cover for the communion,' 'Mr Jewells works,' 'Erasmus Paraphrasis,' 'an hour glasse,' 'a shirplisse' and '2 bottells.'

At Chiddington Mr. Leland Duncan has also examined the original paper book dating from 1565, which is described on page 59. The following are a few of the most interesting extracts:—

" 1573—5. vii ells of holland for a surplesse, xiiij*s*.

ii ells of holland more for ye commūn. Table, vs.

For a bottle to sett wyne in, ijid.

1575—7. Item given to a promoter threatenynge to execute certayne penall statutes the better to be ryd of him, ijij*s* iiijd.

1577—9. Item payd for new makinge a pulpitt, xxvj x*d*.

" for a silver cover for ye Commuiō enpp, xiiij*s*, x*d*.

" for mending the Church Portche, xvjd.

" for a table of the commandments, xij*d*.

" for mattes for the communicants, xvjd."

There was a serious fire about 1625 which seems to have burnt all the roof and the bells, and among the expenses of repairs

involved there are the following entries among large sums paid for "tymber" and "digging stones," etc.:—

- " 1627. Money collected on briefs for rebuilding the Church, £iii 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
 It^m Payd to John Willmore the bell founder for casting the great bell, viij^{li} x^s.
 It^m payed more to John Willnor toward the casting of the other three bells the vj April, 1628, iij^{li} x^s.
 1628. It^m to the plomer for leadeing the Fonte and for sodder about it, vijs.
 " to William Spencer for his worke about the building of scates, iij^{li} vjs.
 " payd to W^m Norris the Freemasone the seconde of August 1628, iij^{li} vi^s.
 " payd for building of the Fonte the sum of iij^{li} x^s.
 " payd to Barnaby the glasier for setting up the Earle of Leicester armes and glaseing of the porch windows, ix^s.
 " payd the third of July to John Willnor the bell founder toward the littell bell & the other bells the some of £4 19s.
 1632. It^m payde to William Norris at two severall tymes at the setting up of the Pinnacle, v^{li}.
 1645. Paid the mason for takeing doun the crosses, 2^s. 9."

At Cobham the Churchwardens' Accounts begin in 1663, and a few extracts from those printed in the *Cobham Parish Magazine* are given by the kind permission of Mr. A. A. Arnold, of Cobhambury.

In May 1663 an assessment at ninepence in the pound shews that the rateable value of Cobham for Church rate was a little under £850, as it realized £31 6s. 9d. Two other rates in that year at fourpence made the total amount £64 4s. 8d.

- " 1664. Paid to M^r Paul for the King's Armes and writing the sentences about the Church and painting, £6. 6. 6d."
 " for whiteing the Church, £1. 7. 6."

Nothing was spent except for absolute necessities. Thus in 1679 the total expenditure was only £1 12s. But there were constant payments for repairs and for bread and wine for Holy Communion, which was only administered at Easter, Whitsuntide, and Christmas. The Archdeacon or his official visited twice each year at Easter and Michaelmas, when the Vicar and Churchwardens dined at Rochester, charging 7s. 6d. to the Church accounts for their dinner. The ringers were paid 6s. 8d. for each of three "ringings," St. George's Day, the King's Birthday and Gunpowder Treason Day. For each badger, fox or "graie" (probably the larger or grey-hound fox) one shilling was paid to anyone who brought one. Many trivial payments were made to beggars, seamen and others passing through the parish, and for matters of surplices, bells and bell ropes, clock, ivy, beating the bounds (1s. 2d.), and stocks. There are few payments for Church furniture and none

for Parish Clerk, cleaning, lighting, warming, music, singing or ringing for services. Perhaps these were provided by fees or gratuities.

In 1693-4 the Holy Communion was administered on the three great festivals and on Palm Sunday, Low Sunday, Trinity Sunday and Michaelmas.

In 1702-4 extensive repairs were done; no architect was employed, but matters were settled at meetings by the churchwardens in consultation with the workmen, and beer was charged to the accounts.

In 1779 £1 10s. was paid to "the Society of Psalm-singers of this parish, wherewith to purchase books to their use," and in 1789 the Clerk was paid "a year's wages, £3. 0. 0," the first payment made by the Parish.

Historical events are incidentally referred to by special payments to ringers, briefs, and for forms of prayer and thanksgiving.

At East Malling the Accounts begin in 1752, and shew the general prevalence of the conditions which held good at Cobham in the previous century. An assessment at sixpence produced £26 3s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., so that the rateable value of the parish was £1048. The Churchwardens collected the rate separately from the "Upperside" and "Lowerside," and separately spent what they received, keeping separate accounts.

The most frequent items are payments for the destruction of vermin at the rate of foxes and badgers one shilling each, polecats, hedgehogs and weazels 4d. each, and sparrows 2d. a dozen. These ceased in 1844, when £4 13s. 8d. was paid for sparrows.

It does not appear how often the Holy Communion was administered, but great quantities of wine were used, *e.g.*

1755. "May 17. A gallon of Tent, 14^s 0^d." Aug. 9. A gallon of tent, 14^s 0^d." 1756. "Wine and Bread, £1. 8. 8."

In 1756-7 payments were made for "A Common Prayer Book, 16^s 0^d"; "A New Register Book, £1 8. 0"; "Swan's boy for keeping the South door shut, 1^s 0^d." In 1763, "For matting and trusses (hassocks), £1 13. 6"; "To y parson for a Vestry Hood, etc., £1 3. 0." In 1770, "For a Surplice, £3 15. 0."

As the parish was a Peculiar of Canterbury in the former Deanery of Shoreham the Archdeacon's Visitations were held at Farningham, and the fees were usually £1 10s. 0d. Only the Vicar's dinner was charged to the accounts. Beating the Bounds usually cost 10s. 6d., but in 1809 the expenses were £2 11s. 10d. In 1829, "Paid Easter Dinner, £2 10. 0."

From 1796 Confirmations were held every two or three years at Wrotham, West Malling, and Maidstone, and the expenses were charged to the accounts, thus:—

1796. "Expenses at Wrotham Confirmation, £1 10. 4."

1804. "May 4. To a Waggon to Wrotham Confirmation, 12. 0."

1810. "July 11. Expenses at the Confirmation at Maidstone, £2 12. 6."

In 1809 there is the first payment of the Parish Clerk:—

“ April 6. Paid the Clerk 5 years Salary, £27 10 . 0.”

In 1818 a Choir appears to have been formed:—

“ May 31. Paid Mr Jones for the Psalm Singers, £3 0 . 0.”

1823. “ Gave to the Psalm Singers, Dec. 27, 5 . 10 . 0.”

The postage of a letter cost 5d., 6d., 7d., or 8d., and in 1831, “ Jan. 22. Carriage of Register to Rochester, 3^s 2^d,” and in 1836, “ Rev. Samuel Francis Godmond for making out 3 years Registers, £3 3 . 0,” prove that transcripts of the Registers of this Peculiar of Canterbury were sent to Rochester, but they have disappeared.

In 1836 the first payment of the Beadle or Parish Constable appears:—

“ James Smith 51 weeks from April 24, 1836 up to April 17, 1837 at 5/- per week as Beadle of the Parish as p^r order on the 22nd day of April, 1836, £12 15 . 0.”

During all these years but little was spent on repairs, but in 1844 there was a great whitewashing:—

“ June 24. Covering the pews before the Church was whitewashed, 2. 6.”

Services were probably suspended for three or four weeks, for—

“ July 13. 4 women cleaning the church after being whitewashed, £2 0 . 0.”

“ July 15. Pankhurst’s bill (probably for whitewashing), £19 7. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.”

In 1852-3 Insurance appears:—

| | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| “ Property Protection Society | 10 | 0 |
| Fire Insurance (Kent Office) | 2 | 10 0.” |

As at Cobham, payments for cleaning, warming and lighting are not to be found, but presumably the Church was cleaned, though it certainly was not warmed or lighted. In 1831 “ Thomas Waterman for looking after the boys at Church” received £1.

The tales of our grandparents or even parents have helped most of us to realize the condition of the churches and the character of the services. Nay, I have a vivid recollection of these very things myself in my first Berkshire Parish in 1878. But they are now things of the past—*Laus Deo*. Two or three centuries hence Churchwardens’ accounts will be of similar interest to posterity as shewing the gradual return to better and brighter days.

VI.—CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTS OF OVERSEERS AND CONSTABLES AND VESTRY MINUTE BOOKS.

No extracts from Overseers’ Accounts have been given in the Forms of Enquiry. Those at Chiddington begin in 1598, at Hoo,

All Hallows, in 1601, and at Westerham in 1601. There are several dating from the seventeenth century and many from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The books are generally in the same state as the Churchwardens' Accounts, but are worthy of preservation as shewing the social and economical condition of the people under the old Poor Law, passed in the time of Elizabeth, when the Dissolution of the Monasteries had destroyed the provision made for the poor by the charity of the Monasteries.

A cursory examination of the Overseers' Accounts at East Malling, which begin in 1727, may perhaps give an idea of the general contents.

In 1727 the Poor rate was levied at 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, and the whole cess amounted to £98 17*s.*, which was chiefly spent in outdoor relief to widows and others, whose names are given, at rates varying from 1*s.* to 4*s.* a month.

Great efforts were made to prevent the settlement of persons who might become chargeable to the parish. Every labourer who left the parish was required to obtain a Bond or Certificate, signed by the Churchwardens and Overseers, and countersigned and sealed by two magistrates, acknowledging him as chargeable to the parish he left; the Bond was handed to and retained by the Overseers of the parish to which he went. Bundles of these Bonds exist in many parish chests. Further, the Overseers at once passed on to the next parish, and so on to their destination any stranger who arrived. Thus:—

| | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| " Gave a sick man to go out of the parish . | 0 | 1 |
| Gave too women to go away | 0 | 1 6." |

The Overseers were specially anxious to be rid of small-pox. Thus:—

" Gave a poor destressed woman at my door, two children one with ye small pox and ye other a eaming out to gat her out of ye Parish, 4*s* 0*d.*"

But even so tramps were often found dead and were buried at the cost of the parish. Thus:—

| | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| " For a coffin for a man dyed in my barn . | 00 | 7 0 |
| for wool | 00 | 1 0 |
| for asslidavit and Laying Forth and putting in the coffen | 00 | 3 0 |
| for drink for them that carryed him to Church | 00 | 4 0 |
| for keeping the man that Dyed in my barn | 00 | 5 0." |

Great expense was often incurred in conveying paupers to their own parishes. Thus:—

" Paid for three horses & a Man and Cart and Expenses to carry John Foster to Breuchley, 00 14. 6."

In 1734 there are two pages of the expenses of taking a married woman to "Gloster." Having obtained her marriage certificate,

one of the Overseers drove her in his own horse and cart *via* London, where he put up at the "torbett," Bath and Bristol. It begins—

" for the use of my horse going to Gloster at 2^s ye day.
for my time 14 days at 2^s p ye day."

All the items are entered in detail, including—

" Gave Horsler and Chamberlin pr Ninght six pence a-pece for 13 Ninghts, 00 13. 0."

The total cost of the journey was "05 18. 7," and the hotel charges are put in one item, "05 17. 8," so that the total cost was £11 16s. 3d. From this, however, at the audit the magistrates deducted £3 0s. 2d., and finally the Overseer signed "his + mark
John Neal."

Paupers were removed to Poor Houses, one of which was rented at £3 a year. There are entries of "hammocks" for beds, furniture, frankincense for disinfection, canary and nursing. On removal to the Poor House the goods of paupers were seized and sold.

Small-pox was chronic, and patients were passed on or removed to their own parish or treated in a house hired for their reception. Beer was provided for small-pox patients, bearers at funerals, and at all meetings, e.g.:—

" Paid for a drinking bout at J^{no} Allechins when the Parish meet to make a Sess but not made 00 02^s 6^d."

Among many entries concerning paupers known only by a Christian name or nick name, such as Caleb, Luke, and Brandy Dick, there is—

| | s. d. |
|--|-------|
| " 1744. Paid for a warrant and Swareing Black Moll | 2 0 |
| Paid Master Gostling to have a Woman whipt and a whip | 9 |
| Spent fetching of John Smith and marring him to Black Moll | 4 3 6 |
| Gave Black Moll to go to Gillingham | 1 0." |

The Minutes of the Vestry Minute Books contain little relating to Church matters. The elections of Churchwardens and Overseers are recorded, and there are pages of grants of relief in money or kind to paupers, especially grants of clothes, such as shifts, aprons, round frocks, half boots, hose, trousers, blankets, sheets and bedsteads, the payments for which are entered in the Accounts.

In 1742 the Parish Doctor was paid £4 4s. for the year, but in 1819 the salary paid was £40 with extra for midwifery, which was raised in 1825 to £50 and in 1836 to £65 with 15s. for midwifery cases.

The cost of the poor increased year by year, and in 1800 the

poor rate amounted to 7*s.* in the pound. The problem of unemployment was chronic and various plans were adopted to solve it, such as road making, part payment of wages to farmers employing men not really wanted, and grants for emigration to America.

In 1834 a petition against the proposed new Poor Law was signed by the five persons present at the Vestry, and on the passing of the Law resolutions were passed authorizing the sale of the old Poorhouses and the borrowing of money for building the new Workhouse.

As to Constables' Accounts, there is no return of any separate books. The expenses appear to have been charged to the Church Rate.

There are many books of Highway Accounts, which have no interest, and complete Valuations of many parishes for the purposes of assessment.

VII.—CONCERNING TERRIERS, INVENTORIES, TITHE AWARDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

There do not appear to be many ancient Terriers and Inventories, and those of the present time, though numerous, do not appear to be very thorough. Yet it is important that these documents should be kept.

Terriers should give a full description of the Glebe, Glebe house and Glebe buildings, with the areas accurately stated, and full details as to the owners of the boundary fences. They might also include particulars as to the Tithe Rent Charge, Endowments, Capital Investments held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or Queen Anne's Bounty, and fixtures belonging to the Benefice.

Inventories should include all Church Goods, especially a list and full description of the Communion Plate, the ornaments of the Church, the ornaments and vestments of the altar, and other moveable articles. If there is any doubt let the article be scheduled. But Inventories must be kept up to date and articles worn out or destroyed should be struck off. A list of the Parish Registers and other records should certainly be given.

The Tithe Awards and altered apportionments are generally in the custody of the Incumbents, except where they have been deposited with Solicitors or Agents collecting the Tithe. Copies are also deposited in the Diocesan Registry.

Records of Parochial Charities, Faculties, Conveyances of Sites of Glebe Houses, Churches and Schools, and miscellaneous papers of all sorts exist, and these should all be carefully sorted and catalogued. It may be that documents of great interest are among them, but very few have been reported. Brenchley has a document, dated 1234, concerning a composition for Tithe between the Prior of Tonbridge and the Rector of Horsmonden. North Cray has a deed signed by Cardinal Pole, 1557, deconsecrating Ruxley Church,

and uniting Ruxley with North Cray. The first Register at Edenbridge is bound in two leaves of a fourteenth-century Benedictional. Eynsford has a deed of Grant of 13 Henry VIII. and a release of 6 Edward VI. West Farleigh has a processional erneifix found in 1832, now deposited in the British Museum. The first Register at Higham is bound in a parchment deed of Elizabeth. Shipbourne has in the crypt a lead coffin containing the remains of Sir Harry Vane, beheaded 1662. Westerham has Letters Patent, 1 Queen Anne, granting a market to Sir Edward Gresham.

Ancient Deed Chests, a few having slits for Peter's Pence, exist in several parishes.

VIII.—CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF PARISH REGISTERS AND RECORDS.

This is not merely a matter of interest to the Antiquary and Genealogist, but of extreme importance to private persons in guarding the evidences of property and pedigree from spoliation and confusion. Hence measures have been taken at different times to ensure their preservation.

Canon 70 of 1603 and Rose's Act of 1812 ordered transcripts of the Registers to be sent annually to the Diocesan Registrar. But no provision was made for the building or maintenance of Registries, or for the payment of Registrars.

In 1831 a Parliamentary Return, No. 298, was made in several Dioceses to enquiries whether the Act of 1812 had been complied with. The Return shewed that defaults in making the transcripts were numerous and that the mode in which the transcripts were kept was far from satisfactory.

In 1899, by a Minute of the First Lord of the Treasury, a Committee was appointed with Dr. Creighton, Bishop of London, as Chairman, with instructions:—

“To enquire and report as to any arrangements now in operation for the collection, custody, indexing and calendaring of local records, and as to any further measures which it may be advisable to take for this purpose.”

This Committee issued a Report on Local Records in 1902, published by Eyre and Spottiswoode, Cd. 1335, price 6*d.*, and with Appendices, Cd. 1333, price 2*s.* 4*d.* From this Report it seems desirable to quote fully as to Parochial Records.

P. 10. “The most important parochial records are the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, accounts of churchwardens and overseers of the poor, rate books, minutes of vestry meetings, title deeds relating to land, tithe maps and apportionments, and inclosure awards.

“In classifying the records of the first mentioned class we are met by a slight difficulty.

"It would be logical to treat the parochial registers of baptisms, marriages and burials as civil records, in view, first of their importance for civil purposes; secondly in relation to the system of registering births, marriages and deaths which came into force in 1837.

"On the other hand these registers originated in certain injunctions given in ecclesiastical matters in 1538; they have almost uniformly been in the custody of the clergyman of the Parish, and transcripts of them have been, under a constitution of the Province of Canterbury, approved by Queen Elizabeth in 1598, transmitted (though with many omissions) to the Diocesan Registry.

"Thus the parochial registers are actually in ecclesiastical custody."

Referring to Churchwardens' Accounts the Report states:—

P. 11. "By the Poor Law of Elizabeth, churchwardens were associated with the Parish overseers in the care of the poor. The accounts of churchwardens and overseers are often of great interest, and throw a flood of light on the fabrics and ornaments of the parish churches, and on the social, ecclesiastical, and economical conditions of the parishes to which they relate The parish rate books shew the occupation and the changes in character and value of property throughout the country."

Referring to the condition of Parochial records the Report states:—

P. 27. "Parochial records have suffered much from fire and damp, and more, perhaps, from the dishonesty or negligence of their custodians."

P. 28. "There can be no doubt that the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials were not preserved with due care in the eighteenth century. Some perished by fire, others were ruined by damp. Instances have been quoted of their being used by a lace-maker for her patterns, by a tailor for his measures, by a tradesman for wrapping up his goods, as the covering for the tester of a bedstead, and as kettle-holders. Some have been sold at public auctions, some have found their way into the British Museum, and some are still in private hands."

P. 32. "The statements made to us in regard to parish registers are divergent, though not in reality conflicting.

"Many witnesses bear testimony to the care exercised, as a rule, by the clergy as custodians In some cases the clergy have taken pains to restore and transcribe the older registers, and have rebound decayed books, often at considerable cost to themselves. The condition of registers comes under periodical review at the visitations of the archdeacons and rural deans. But such happy conditions are far from being universal, and measures of the kind indicated in the foregoing paragraph, while they do much to awaken interest in the registers and to protect them from abuse, cannot ensure their safety. The clergy, where they have the will, often lack the power to house their records adequately. The poverty of many parishes forbids the purchase of a safe, and, if so, a tin box

must be used as a substitute. This is in itself a source of danger, and where a vestry is damp (as is frequently the case) the only alternative open to a clergyman is to remove the registers to his parsonage, where they are exposed to the risk of fire.

"Thus it comes to pass that in many parts of the country these valuable records are inadequately secured.

"In these circumstances, while recognizing to the fullest extent the efforts made and the public spirit manifested by so many of the clergy, we cannot avoid the conclusion that under the present system parish registers are exposed to serious danger."

Referring to the condition of the transcripts in the Diocesan Registries the Report states:—

P. 3. "They are kept in most places in such a state that it is useless to consult the chaos: part are in bundles and part in heaps. If arranged chronologically and according to the parishes, and indexed, they would be of very great value, and the present neglect is lamentable."

Concerning the expediency of centralization of Parish registers the Report states:—

P. 36. "We find that the opinions, alike of the clergy and of others, are evenly divided."

P. 39. "Since many have suggested the centralization of registers in local areas, we may here say that the majority of those, whether clergymen or antiquarians, who advocate such a measure are of opinion that it should not be compulsorily enforced. It is most commonly suggested that the area in such a case should be the diocese, and that the authorities responsible for custody should be ecclesiastical. Others, who go rather further, appear at the most to contemplate that parish registers, together with other ecclesiastical records, might be lodged, at the option of the ecclesiastical authorities, in a separate portion of a repository where civil records are stored, and in which all owners had equal rights, under some neutral non-political body."

In considering the difficulties of Centralization the Report states:—

P. 44. "In regard to Parish registers the case appears to be as follows:—

"On the one hand registers in their present situation are often objects of pride and veneration, and may even be the only memorials of the past which a village possesses. They are displayed to visitors, as the very finger-marks opposite the more important entries attest; and, as one witness says, they are in a way the title deeds of the parishioners. To remove them would therefore be in some cases a blow to local feeling.

"Furthermore, the statements of several witnesses, as well as our own experience, lead us to believe that in recent years there has been a growing recognition among the clergy of the importance of ancient registers, and of the precautions necessary for their safety. There can be little doubt that registers are on the whole more carefully preserved now than they were in the middle of the nineteenth century.

"On the other hand, the concentration of parish registers in suitable buildings at local centres would secure them from the many and various risks to which they are at present notoriously exposed. It would moreover be a very great boon to the class of students most capable of deciphering them and extracting information from them. So long as they remain scattered in some eleven thousand places of deposit, all searches must necessarily be attended with difficulty and expense."

"Having regard to the present constitution and condition of the diocesan registries, we cannot recommend that any fresh series of documents should be removed thereto. On the establishment, however, of suitable local repositories, the deposit in them of parish registers anterior to the year 1837 should, we think, be permitted and encouraged and the bishops should be empowered to order such deposit when desirable. The old transcripts now preserved in diocesan and archidiaconal registries should also be made accessible in the proposed local record offices."

The final recommendation of the Report is as follows:—

P. 48. "As regards ecclesiastical records, the Cathedral town should be the local centre for the diocese."

"The local record authorities should be—

"a. As regards boroughs, the borough council.

"b. As regards counties, the county council.

"c. As regards dioceses, (1) the bishop, (2) the cathedral chapter, acting, if possible, in unison."

"As to parish registers, we think there should be at the selected centres as complete a record as possible of all baptisms, marriages and burials in every parish within the district between the years 1538 and 1836 inclusive. The safest and simplest arrangement would be that the original registers should be transferred to the local record office, the right of existing incumbents to fees for searches being preserved. In cases where such a transfer would be strongly opposed by local sentiment, the yearly transcripts ordered by law and now existing in the diocesan and archidiaconal registries should be verified, and when defective should, if possible, be completed. It would be desirable to confer upon the bishops the power of ordering the removal of original registers to the proper repository."

No action has yet been taken to carry out the recommendations of this report.

In 1905 the Convocation of Canterbury passed the following resolution:—

"That it is advisable that a Commission be issued by the Bishop of each Diocese charged with the duty of ascertaining of what records the several officers of the Church in that Diocese are at present the custodians."

In pursuance of this resolution the Rochester Diocesan Conference at the Sevenoaks Session in July 1910 resolved that the Standing Committee should appoint a Special Committee to ascer-

tain what Ecclesiastical Records were in the custody of the Incumbents and other officers of the Church in the Diocese, and under what conditions they are accessible to the public, and to report to Conference.

IX.—CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF PARISH REGISTERS AND RECORDS IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

The Forms of Enquiry, which have been returned by the Clergy of the Diocese of Rochester, shew that the statements made in the Report of the Committee as quoted above are generally true of the Parish Registers and Records of this Diocese.

The Parishes of the Diocese may be classified thus :—

a. 117 Ancient Parishes existing before 1538.

b. 2 Seventeenth Century Parishes, Plaxtol and Tunbridge Wells, King Charles.

c. 78 Modern Parishes formed since 1837.

There are also the Chapelries of Groombridge, attached to Speldhurst, and Capel, attached to Tudeley.

The 117 Ancient Parishes ought to possess registers dating at least from the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. But the actual conditions are these :—

10 Parishes possess Registers dating from 1538.

| | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|------------------------|
| 11 | " | " | " | between 1539 and 1557. |
|----|---|---|---|------------------------|

| | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|------------------------|
| 57 | " | " | " | between 1558 and 1603. |
|----|---|---|---|------------------------|

| | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|------------------|
| 39 | " | " | " | from after 1603. |
|----|---|---|---|------------------|

It may be stated at once that in every one of these 39 parishes the parchment transcript Registers, which ought to date from the Reign of Elizabeth, and possibly some later parchment Registers, have been lost, stolen, or destroyed.

In some instances their fate is known and may be a warning of the dangers which beset them.

At Aylesford the first register is said to have been lent to an exhibition and never to have been returned.

At Chalk the box containing the registers was stolen, carried across the Thames into Essex and there forced open. The thief, disappointed with the contents, threw the registers into a pond, from which they were rescued and returned.

At Erith all the registers were either destroyed or damaged by fire in 1877, while stored in a temporary church during the Restoration of the Parish Church.

At High Halstow the first register has been destroyed by damp and silver fish.

At Kingsdown the old registers were destroyed by an ignorant Parish Clerk who died in 1814.

At Shipbourne the early register could not be found after the death of Rev. T. Brown in 1854, and was probably removed among his books.

At Swanscombe the first register was damaged by fire and water, when the Church was struck by lightning in 1902.

At Wilmington the first register has been destroyed by rats and mice.

At Platt, a modern parish formed in 1846, all the registers were stolen and burnt in 1885.

Nothing is known of the fate of the first registers of the other ancient parishes where they are missing.

Besides these the Hardwicke Marriage Registers, 1754 to 1812, are missing at Chelsfield, Fawkham, Nurstead, Ifield, and Pembury. At Offham and Cudham the Hardwicke Register was never purchased, but the entries are made in paper books in the form prescribed. At Allington it was not purchased till 1770.

In the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of London at Burlington House there is a volume numbered MS. CLXXX, which contains MS. extracts, in the handwriting of one person unknown, taken in 1726 from the early Registers in Kent. These extracts shew that the first registers, now lost, of Sele, Ditton, Capell, Leigh, Horton Kirby and Stoke were extant in 1726.

The Schedules of the Registers of the Ancient Parishes have been checked with the Schedules of the Parliamentary Return, No. 298, of 1831, and the volumes appear to correspond with the following exceptions: The early Registers of Bexley, 1565—1707, Downe, 1538—1733, and Edenbridge, 1546—1602 are not given in the Return of 1831 and presumably have been recovered since then. The early Registers of Erith, 1625—1877, Shipbourne, 1560—1658, and Stoke, 1570—1666, given in the Return of 1831, are now lost.

The Registers of the modern Parishes, except Platt as mentioned above, appear to be complete.

The Forms of Enquiry shew that the Registers are kept in the Churches and the Vestry Rooms of the Churches or in the Parsonage Houses. The risk of fire is no greater in a Parsonage House than in a Church, and there is less risk of theft and destruction by damp or vermin. But there is greater risk of removal with the books and papers of an Incumbent at resignation or death. The essential means of securing their safety is a fire-resisting safe, which may for an average country parish cost £10 or £12. A tin deed-box, which can be easily carried off by thieves with its contents, kept in the vestry of a Church opened daily for private prayer, is quite devoid of security. The heavy iron boxes, ordered by Rose's Act, are safer than tin deed-boxes, but are not fire resisting. Incidentally information has come to hand of registers kept in drawers in Vestries and of others discovered under heaps of papers.

If the Clergy are to retain the registers in their own custody it is essential that fire-resisting safes should be provided, and that a list of the registers should be carefully kept and checked at intervals by the Archdeacon or Rural Dean, and always by the Churchwardens on a change of Incumbent.

As to the suggestion of the Local Records Committee that all

registers should be centralized in the Cathedral Town, there are the obvious difficulties of the cost of the provision and maintenance of suitable buildings and of the salaries of the officials. The clergy would not willingly give up their registers, and unless the collection were complete the whole scheme would collapse. Moreover there would be the risk of a holocaust of all the registers of the diocese by fire, the efforts of local antiquaries and students would be greatly discouraged, and a Public Record office would be repellent to all except the trained expert. (Report, p. 238.)

The Registers generally appear to be in fair condition. But there can be no doubt that many require small repairs, while others require special binding and mending by an expert. Small repairs such as stitching, new boards, fixing of loose binding and mending of broken corners may be done by a good bookbinder at about 2s. 6d. a volume. But the treatment of the old parchment registers requires expert care and should only be entrusted to such firms as Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, W. H. Smith and Son, or Zaehnsdorf, all of London, who should be required to give a receipt for registers entrusted to them.

Transcripts of Registers.

The Rochester Diocesan Registry possesses transcripts of the registers of most of the Ancient Parishes, chiefly between 1700 and 1800. The transcripts for the whole of the Diocese, from 1800 to 1835, seem to be fairly complete. From 1835 to 1870 they gradually fell off and have now almost ceased to come in. They are tied up in bundles according to the parishes and are seldom referred to.

A list of these Transcripts is here given.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Addington. | Dartford. | Leybourne. |
| Allington. | Ditton. | Luddesdown. |
| Ash. | Edenbridge. | Malling, West. |
| Ashurst. | Erith. | Mereworth. |
| Aylesford. | Farleigh, West. | Milton |
| Barming. | Farnborough. | next Gravesend. |
| Bidborough. | Frindsbury. | Nettlestead. |
| Birling. | Gravesend. | Offham. |
| Brenchley. | Hadlow. | Peckham, West. |
| Bromley. | Halling. | Pembury. |
| Burham. | Halstow, High. | Ridley. |
| Chalk. | Hoo, All Hallows. | Rochester, |
| Chatham. | Hoo, St. Mary. | St. Margaret. |
| Chislehurst. | Hoo, St. Werburgh. | Rochester, |
| Cobham. | Horsmonden. | St. Nicholas. |
| Cooling. | Horton Kirby. | Ryarsh. |
| Cowden. | Kemsing. | Seal. |
| Cray, North. | Kingsdown. | Shipbourne. |
| Cudham. | Lamberhurst. | Shorne. |
| Cuxton. | Leigh. | Snodland. |

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Southfleet. | Sutton-at-Hone. | Tudeley. |
| Speldhurst. | Swanscombe. | Wateringbury. |
| Stoke. | Teston. | Westerham. |
| Stone. | Tonbridge. | Wilmington. |
| Stroud. | Trottescliffe. | Wouldham. |

From the above list it appears that there are no transcripts from Beckenham, Chelsfield, Fooths Cray, St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray, Fawkham, Hartley, Higham, Longfield, Lullingstone, Nurstead, Plaxtol, and Yalding.

The Shoreham Peculiars.

Until 1846 there were in the area of the Diocese of Rochester, as now constituted, thirty-three parishes which were Peculiars of the Archbishop of Canterbury and formed the former Rural Deanery of Shoreham.

Among the MSS. at Lambeth Palace Library there are the Visitations of the Archbishop in 1758 and 1788. There is also a MS. list of the Peculiars, dated 1685, shewing that the Peculiars in the Diocese of Rochester were—

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bexley. | Gillingham. | Meopham. |
| Brasted. | Grayne. | Northfleet. |
| Chevening. | Halstead. | Orpington. |
| Chiddingstone. | Hayes. | Otford. |
| Cliffe-at-Hoo. | Hever. | Peckham, East. |
| Crayford. | Hunton. | Penshurst. |
| Darenth. | Ifield. | Sevenoaks. |
| Downe. | Ightham. | Shoreham. |
| Eynsford. | Keston. | Stanstead. |
| East Farleigh. | Knockholt. | Sundridge. |
| Farningham. | Malling, East. | Wrotham. |

Enquiries for transcripts of the registers of the above have been made without result at Rochester Diocesan Registry, Canterbury Diocesan Registry, the Archdeacon of Maidstone's Court, Lambeth Palace Library, the Registrar General's Office, and the Record Office.

Facilities of access to Parochial Records.

The answers to the question on this point in the Forms of Enquiry shew that in all cases Incumbents allow access under proper supervision on application made to themselves and charge the legal fees where access is required for legal purposes, but willingly make special arrangements where access is required for historical, antiquarian or genealogical research. It is probable that certificates required for Old Age Pensions are usually given for the fee of one shilling and often gratuitously.

Society of Antiquaries of London. MS. CLXXX.

This MS. is a bound collection of paper sheets on which are written in the handwriting of one person not known extracts taken in 1726 relating to the principal gentry, esquires and clergy from the registers of several Kentish parishes.

“ ADDINGTON.—Registr. incipit anno 1562.” Extracts, 1590—1727; 1569—1674.

“ SELE.—Transcript. Registr. incipit Nov. 18 a^o 1^m Gilberti Jenyns Vicarii ib. et a^o Eliz. Reg. 4^{to}. Desinit March 28, 1600.” Extracts, 1561—99. 61 entries. This Reg. is lost.

“ CHELSEA.—Transcript. Registr. incipit a^o 1579. Desinit ad fineum anni 1604.” Extracts, 1586—1604. 16 entries.

“ FARBRO.—Registr. Transcriptum incipit a^o 1579. Desinit ad finem anni 1605.” Extracts, 1586—1605. 4 entries.

“ DYTTON.—Transcript. Registr. incipit a^o 1567. Desinit a^o 1599.” Extracts, 1567—98. 24 entries. This Reg. is lost.

“ CAPELL.—Transcript. Registr. incipit a^o 1640. Desinit a^o 1661.” Extracts, 1644—61. 7 entries. This Reg. is lost.

“ EDENBRIDGE.—Transcript. Registr. Parochial. ib. incipit a^o 1558. Desinit ad finem 1599.” Extracts, 1558—99. 54 entries.

“ LEIGH.—Transcript. Registr. incipit a^o 1559.” Extracts, 1560—99. 2 pages. This Reg. is lost.

“ HORSMONDEN,” 1558—1620. Extracts of Bathurst of Thorpe.

“ HORTON KIRBY.—E Registro de Horton Kirby qnod incipit anno 1556.” Extracts, 1559—1699. 3 pages.

“ LUDDESDOWNE.—Registr. incipit a^o 1562.” Extracts, 1562—1663. 36 entries. This Reg. is lost.

“ LULLINGSTONE.—Registrum de Lullingstone incipit a^o Dm. 1578.” Extracts, 1579—1620. Extracted Aug. 11, 1726.

“ MEREWORTH.—Transcript. Registr. incipit a^o 2^{do} Eliz. Desinit anno 1600.” Extracts, 1560—99.

“ RYARSH.—Transcript. Registr. incipit Nov. 20, 1559. Desinit a^o 1600.” Extracts, 1577—1600.

“ ROCHESTER.—Registrum Eccles. S^{tae} Margaretae Juxta Roff. incipit a^o 1653.” Extracts, 1653—99. 5 pages.

“ MEPHAM.—The Antient register was stolen out of y^e church with divers other books 1569.”

“ RIDLEY.—Reg. incipit a^o 1631.”

“ ST. MARIE’S.”—Extracts, 1584—1688. 2 pages. ? Strood.

“ SNODLAND.—Registrum incipit 1559.” Extracts, 1576—1717. 7 pages; made March 4, 1726.

“ STOKE.—Registrum de Stoke incipit 1559.” Extracts, 1575—1671. 4 pages. This Reg. is lost.

"STROWDE.—Transcript. Reg. incipit 1565." Extracts, 1568—
96. 2 pages.

"YALDING.—Transcript. Reg. incipit. a festo St Bartholomei,
aº 1559." Extracts. 2 pages.

"WESTERHAM.—Transcript. Reg. incipit aº 1559. Desinit anno
1600." Extracts, 1559—99.

Copies of Certain Registers.

T. Colyer Fergusson, Esqre., of Ightham Mote, has transcribed from their commencement to 1812, all from the original excepting Cobham, which is a copy of a copy, the registers of 29 parishes. He has indexed them all, and has a type-written copy as well as that in MS. He has sent a typewritten copy to each parish except Cobham.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Ash. | Ifield. | Oxford. |
| Chalk. | Ightham. | Ridley. |
| Cobham. | Kemsing. | Plaxtol. |
| Crayford. | Kingsdown. | Shipbourne. |
| Darenth. | Longfield. | Shorne. |
| Fawkham. | Luddesdown. | Southfleet. |
| Gravesend. | Lullingstone. | Stanstead. |
| Hartley. | Meopham. | Stone. |
| Higham. | Northfleet. | Swanscombe. |
| Horton Kirby. | Nurstead. | Trotterscliffe. |

Mr. Leland Dunean has copies of the Registers of

Allhallows, Hoo 1629—1837 Chislehurst 1559—
Beckenham 1558—

The Marriage Registers of the following parishes have been printed by Mr. Phillimore:—

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Eynsford | 1538—1812 | Lamberhurst | 1564—1837 |
| West Farleigh | 1558—1812 | Penshurst | 1647—1812 |
| Halstead | 1561—1836 | Westerham | 1559—1837 |

The Registers of Orpington (1560—1754) were transcribed by Mr. Herbert Kirby, and printed by Charles North, Blackheath.

The Registers of Farnborough (1538) were printed by Mr. Henry Wilson.

Form of Enquiry issued to Incumbents.

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE, 1910.

PAROCHIAL RECORDS ENQUIRY.

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Parish..... | Rural Deanery..... | Archdeaconry..... |
| Dedication..... | | Rector or Vicar..... |

I.—*Parochial Registers.*

1. At what date do your Registers begin?

2. Are they continuous from that date to the present time?

If not (a) What gaps are there *in* the existing volumes? Give dates.

(b) What gaps are there *between* the volumes? Give dates.

(c) If any volumes have been lost, is there any information as to the date of their loss and fate, and any chance of their recovery?

3. How many volumes are there? (a) Mixed, (b) Baptisms or Births, (c) Marriages, (d) Burials, (e) Banns, (f) Total.

4. Does the earliest Register contain any entries of date earlier than 1538?

5. If the earliest entries are dated between 1538 and 1603, do they appear to be the original entries on paper or transcripts on parchment, or both?

6. Are there any entries during the period of the Commonwealth, 1644—1660?

If so (a) What is their general character?

(b) By whom do they appear to have been made?

7. Are the entries made in Latin during any period or periods? Give dates.

8. Where are the Registers kept?

9. Are they kept in a fire-resisting safe?

10. Have you an ancient Deed Chest? If so, give a brief description and the date.

11. Have the Registers or any of them been printed or copied? If so, which, and by whom?

12. If not, is it proposed to print or copy any of them? If so, which, and by whom?

13. Are there any entries recording interesting events or relating to the condition of the Parish? If so, please give adequate notes opposite.

II.—*Other Records.*

Do you possess any of the following? If so, kindly give the dates (first and last entry) in each case, and any other information worthy of report by this Committee:—

1. Churchwardens' Account Books.
2. Overseers' Account Books.
3. Constables' Account Books.
4. Brief Books.
5. Vestry Minute Books.
6. Terriers of Church Lands.
7. Inventories of Church Goods.
8. Maps or Plans.
9. In whose custody are the Tithe Awards, Tithe Maps, and altered Apportionments.

III.—*General.*

Do you possess any other documents of interest, *e.g.*, Charters, Penances, Faculties, Conveyances, Tithe Deeds, Acts of Consecration, Records of Parochial Charities, etc.? If so, give a brief description opposite.

IV.—*Under what conditions are the Ecclesiastical Records accessible to the public?*

Signed.....

Rector or Vicar of.....

Date.....

INVENTORY OF THE PARISH REGISTERS AND
OTHER RECORDS IN THE DIOCESE OF
ROCHESTER, EXTRACTED FROM THE REPLIES
TO THE FORM OF ENQUIRY.

In this Inventory the Parish Registers are entered under I.,
and other Parochial Records under II.

ABBREVIATIONS.

Mx. Mixed, *i.e.*, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, or 1754—1812 only
Baptisms and Burials.

Ba. Baptisms.

Ma. Marriages.

Bu. Burials.

Chw. Acc. Churchwardens' Accounts.

Ov. Acc. Overseers' Accounts.

V. M. Bk. Vestry Minute Book.

Reg. Register.

ADDINGTON. ST. MARGARET.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1562—1675. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 1. |
| 2. Mx., 1675—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 7 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1. Entries during Commonwealth fewer and less orderly.
Reg. 3 contains Briefs.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1760—1866. | V. M. Bk., 1869—1910. | Terrier. |
| Inventory. A Book, 1805—1859, begun by Rev. P. Elers, and continued to time of Rev. G. Paulson, Rector, contains accounts of Tithes paid, moneys expended on building and repairs, and other information concerning the Rectory. | | |

ALLINGTON. ST. LAURENCE.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1630—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1770—1803. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 1. | | 6 Volumes. |

Gaps not inconsistent with small population ; Census, 1811, shewing population 55. A few Briefs in Reg. 1.

1644—1660. Great excess of Baptisms and Marriages, 1648—1653; as many as 54 Baptisms and 38 Marriages of persons resident chiefly at Maidstone, but also in neighbouring parishes and even London. They coincide with the ejection of the Vicar of Maidstone, Baurel or Barrett, and the intrusion of one Smith, in 1643. Church people of Maidstone appear to have resorted to Richard Thomas, Rector of Allington, who was not ejected, but died 1656-7. In 1653 the excess of marriages ceased, probably owing to the appointment of "Registers."

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1895—1910. | V. M. Bk., 1841—1910. | Faculties, |
| 1831, 1866, 1898. | | Exchange of Glebe, 1845. |

ASH. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1553—1737. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 1. |
| 2. Mx., 1736—1809. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 4. Mx., 1810—1812. | | 8 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Ba., 1697—1705, in duplicate.

Reg. 2. Entries, 1736-7, copied from Reg. 1.

Gaps in Ba. and Ma., 1600—1605, and Bu., 1599—1607. Very few entries 1639—1642.

The earliest entries to 1600 appear to be in the handwriting of Thomas Maxfield, jun., Rector 1575—1605, who copied those made during his father's incumbency. All the entries 1640—1673 are in the handwriting of Thomas Morris, Rector 1642—1674.

There is an oak chest dated 1715.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1848—1910. A large folio book, 1792, contains a map of the Parish, with a list of owners and occupiers and the amount of arable, hop, meadow, and wood land, with field and place names. Conveyances, 1867 and 1873, of School and land for School by Multon Lambarde to Rector and Churchwardens. Charities: 1. Copy of Will of Rev. Samuel Attwood; 2. Deed of Trust, 1811, James Lance, Almshouses, etc.; 3. Copy of Legacy of Wm. Warren, 1568; 4. Copy of Legacy of Nicholas Courney or Courteyn; 5. Copy of Legacy of Thomas Comfort; 6. Copy of Legacy of John Walter of Fawkham; 7. Copy of Legacy of Richard Miller, 1610.

ASHHURST. ST. MARTIN.

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1692—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma. 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 2. | | 7 Volumes. |
| Reg. 1, lately repaired. Gap in Ma., 1743—1752, and Bu., 1806—1813. | | |

There is an oak chest with ornamented sides, stated in the Register to have been the gift of "y^e Hon^{ble} the Lady Rivers." Dated 1701.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1715—1876. Bf. Bk., 1692—1723. A Book contains accounts of restorations and improvements of the Church, furniture, fittings, windows, etc., 1861—1910. Faculties, 1861 and 1905.

AYLESFORD. ST. PETER.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1653—1734. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1734—1812. | " | Ma., 4. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 3. |
| 14 Volumes. | | |

The earliest volume is lost, and no information can be given. 1653—1657, ina. solemnized and signed by Geo. Duke, Justice of the Peace. Very numerous Marriages, *e.g.*, 37 in 1735, 28 in 1736; less towards 1753. Most of these took place at Cossington, just over the border of the diocese of Canterbury, where, perhaps, there was a Chapel. The change of diocese was probably the root of the matter. There is a Deed Chest, probably about 200 years old,

II.—Chw. Acc., 1608—1651, and 1713—1905, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., 1679—1820, 5 vols. V. M. Bk., 1736—1910. Inventory, 1902.

BARMING. ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1541—1611. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1624—1757. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1757—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1813. | 11 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Eleven skins sewn as a roll 22 ft. 6 in. long.

Reg. 2. Thirty-eight pages MS. sheets bound in vellum.

Reg. 3 contains Rev. Mark Noble's obituary notes, some very uncomplimentary.

There is a book copy of Reg. 1 and 2 bound in vellum.

Gap between Reg. 1 and 2, 1611—1624.

During the Commonwealth the entries continue the same, each page signed by Rich^d Webb, Rector.

"8th April 1656. Rich^d Webb, Minister of the Parish of Barming, chosen by the inhabitants of the Parish to be Parish Registrar of the same, he taking his oath to perform the same office according to the Regular Act touching Marriages and the registering thereof, and also touching Births and Burials.

"AUGUSTINE SKINNER, Justice of the Peace."

There is an old chest of no value.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1777—1815, 1884—1910. V. M. Bk., 1842—1910. A small book of Visitation entries. Inventory, 1895. A Pew Faculty. Deed of Consecration of new Cemetery. A bound volume of Miscellanea, Sepulchral Remains, etc. A type-written copy, 370 pp., bound in rough calf, of all the really interesting matter in the MSS. of Rev. Mark Noble, Rector, 1786—1827, in the possession of the Buttanshaw family. A similar volume of his MSS. pedigrees, 26 of Barming people or those connected with it. A note book of lists of Rectors of Barming, West Barming, and the Hermitage and Rural Deans of Malling. Several volumes of Service Books and Parish Magazines.

BECKENHAM. ST. GEORGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1717. | 5. Ma., 1790—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1717—1771. | 1813—1910. Ba., 6. |
| 3. Mx., 1772—1812. | " Ma., 6. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1790. | " Bu., 4. |

21 Volumes.

1644—1660. Births, Baptisms, and Burials. Marriages few, and none in some years. Some by a "Register," whose election

is duly recorded (in one instance this was the Parish Clerk), and others by the "Minister" in charge.

Latin entries, Ba., 1538—1608; Ma. and Bu., 1606—1608, when Rev. Peter Punter was Curate.

Interesting items have been recorded in *Beckenham, Past and Present*, 307 pp., by Robert Borrowman; published by Thornton, Beckenham, 1910.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1686—1689, 1801—1910. V. M. Bk., 1686—1717, 1774, and following. Terrier. Inventory, 16 Nov., 1552, 6th year of Edward VI., now in Record Office, copied in Borrowman's Book. Records of old Par. Charities taken over by Charity Commissioners, 1878.

BECKENHAM. ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

I.—1908—1910. Ba., 1. 1908—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1908—1910.

BECKENHAM. HOLY TRINITY.

I.—1869—1910. Ba., 5. 1878—1910. Ma., 3.
8 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1879—1910. Deed of declaration of Patronage.
Instrument fixing and assigning Pew Rents.

BECKENHAM. CHRIST CHURCH.

I.—1875—1910. Ba., 1. 1878—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1901—1910. V. M. Bk., 1877—1910, 5 vols.
Conveyance of land for Church and Schools to Rev. W. Welsh and others.

BECKENHAM. ST. BARNABAS.

I.—1877—1910. Ba., 1. 1893—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1879—1910. Inventory, 1884.

BECKENHAM. SHORTLANDS. THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

I.—1870—1910. Ba., 2. 1871—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.

II.—Map of present Parish, 1909.

BECKENHAM, NEW. ST. PAUL.

I.—1871—1910. Ba., 1. 1873—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. V. M. Bk., 1872—1910. Map of Parish, 1872.

BELVEDERE. ALL SAINTS.

I.—1861—1910. Ba., 4. 1862—1910. Ma., 2.
6 Volumes.

In the first Ma. Reg., 1862, this order by the Archbishop of Canterbury, May 1862, is entered: "That All Saints, Belvedere, having been duly constituted a Parish, all Fees and Emoluments shall, after the next avoidance of Incumbent at the Parish Church, Erith, become the property of the Vicar of Belvedere."

II.—A Preacher's Book contains details of the movement by Sir Cunning Eardley for providing a Church at Belvedere, dated 1848—1854. Inventory, 1895. Map. Copy of Instrument, 1861, assigning a District to All Saints, Belvedere. Dr. Matthewson's Charity (£100) for the Sick and Poor. Conveyance of Schools, 1863.

BEXLEY. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1565—1707. | 6. Ma., 1809—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1678—1725. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Mx., 1722—1770. | " Ma., 4. |
| 4. Mx., 1770—1812. | " Bu., 4. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1809. | 18 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. 1644—1660, entries by Nicolas Frankwell, Vicar, till 16 Nov. 1653. 1653—1668, entries promiscuous, no Ma. or Bu., only a few Ba.

Latin, 1609—1626.

Briefs in Reg. 3.

Frequent visits of Whitefield and the two Wesleys are recorded.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk. of recent date. The old books could not be found at the death of the Vestry Clerk many years

ago. Faculties for restoration, monuments, and consecration of St. John's. Charities administered by United Charity Trustees under a scheme.

BEXLEY HEATH. CHRIST CHURCH.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1844—1910. Ba., 8. | 1842—1910. Ba., 6. |
| 1847—1910. Ma., 3. | 17 Volumes. |

II.—V. M. Bk., 2 vols., contains also Minutes of the Burial Board. Inventory. Plans of Vicarage.

BIDBOROUGH. ST. LAWRENCE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1593—1812. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 2. Bu., 1723—1768. | ” Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1812. | ” Bu., 1. |
| 8 Volumes. | |

The return states there are Chw. and Ov. and Constables' Acc. and V. M. Bk., Terrier, and Inventory, but no dates or details are given.

BIRLING. ALL SAINTS.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1709. | 5. Ma., 1770—1812. |
| 2. Ba., 1707—1735. | 6. Ba., Bu., 1787—1812. |
| ” Ma., 1712—1753. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| ” Bu., 1712—1735. | ” Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ba., Bu., 1735—1787. | ” Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1770. | 13 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Several pages missing, Bu., 1655—1712. 1644—1660, entries as previously, the handwriting of a different character, probably that of Thomas Gunn, Vicar, intruded 1651—1660.

There is an iron chest, undated, with two padlocks.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1832—1910, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., modern. Inventory in the Chw. Acc. Plan of Christ Church churchyard. Title Deeds and Faculty of Christ Church.

BRASTED. ST. MARTIN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1557—1642. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1653—1735. | ” Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1735—1812. | ” Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 13 Volumes. |
| | |

Gap between Reg. 1 and 2, 1642—1653. Reg. 2 is stated to be "according to an Act of Parliament of 24 August 1653,"

II.—Chw. Acc., 1828—1910. Ov. Acc., 1830—34. V. M. Bk., 1801—1910. Inventory. Plan of Churchyard. Paupers' List, 1828—41. Charities: Newman, Manette.

BRENCHLEY. ALL SAINTS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1654. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 6. |
| 2. Mx., 1654—1764. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1764—1812. | " | Bu., 4. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 17 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. At the beginning a later note says: "The long Register begins 17th Oct. 1539 but has many interruptions," but there is no long register nor any other record of it.

1644—1660. Reg. scanty 1642-3. Regular entries from 1644, not signed. Note in Reg.: "No incumbent for 3 years before 1646."

1646—1651, entries made by John Topping; 1652—1656, by William Turner, Parish Clerk, appointed for the purpose. Ma. few and performed by "the worshipful George Payne Esq^{re} J.P." and signed by him. John Turner died 1654. From 1656 Ma. performed and signed by John Monckton. 1560—1633 seem to be copied and signed by Edward Henshall.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1746—1793. V. M. Bk., 1812—1824, 2 vols. Lease of old workhouse, 9 Dec., 6 Geo. II., by Sir Walter Roberts of Glassenbury in Cranbrook to the Churchwardens and Overseers for 99 years.

The safe at the Vicarage contains Terriers of Glebe 1634, 1662 and 1663, 1774 with plan. Letters from John Thorpe, the Kentish antiquary, 1723 and 1724, *re* the Vicarage. Paper sheets of names of Churchwardens, etc., 1711 to 1754. Sequestration Order, 1773. Extract of will of George Payne, 1682. Agreement to compound Tithes, 1716, and draft in 1755. Parchment report to the Bishop of Rochester, 1605, *re* Glebe, etc., and examination of Robert Forman, aged 74, touching the bounds of Brenchley and Tudeley. Abstract of will of S. Woodgate, 1672. Conveyance of Furzey, 1636. Copy of will of Sir W. Roberts of Glassenbury, 1648. Licence for service in schoolroom, 1851. Measurement of Brenchley Vicarage, 1765. Bounds of Parish, 1647 and 1695. Boundary of Vicarage Quarter called Westroterenden, 1751. Parchment lease of a cottage, 1691; and 1635. Bond of Checksell family, 1635. Parchment copy (sixteenth century) of paper copy (thirteenth century) of arrangement with the Prior of Tunbridge regarding the Vicarage Tithes.

Two chests in the old Vestry contain Overseers' assessment books; loose leaves, 1716—1776 and bound books 1777—1835, 10 vols. Overseers' Account Books, 1790—1835, 15 vols. Personal Accounts relating to paupers, 1794—1825, 24 vols. Casual Relief Books, 1829, 1835, 2 vols. Books of persons relieved, 1812—1822,

5 vols. Books of weekly payments, 1829—1833. Brenchley Farm Accounts, 1833. Rate Book, 1838—40. Highway Accounts from 1837. Highway Rate Books, 1840—1853. Also bundles of Overseers' Accounts, orders of removal, bastardy orders, 1800—1840, and Parish Rents, 1810. Flour Accounts and Valuation, 1799—1800.

BRENCHLEY MATFIELD. ST. LUKE.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Ba., 1877—1910. | 3. Bu., 1878—1910. |
| 2. Ma., 1876—1910. | 3 Volumes. |

- II.—V. M. Bk., 1907—1910. Plan of Church.
-

BROMLEY. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| I.— | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ba., 1558—1714.} \\ \text{Ma., 1578—1678.} \\ \text{Bu., 1575—1734.} \end{array} \right.$ | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ma., 1789—1812.} \\ \text{Bu., 1678—1778.} \\ \text{Bu., 1779—1812.} \end{array} \right.$ |
| 1. | 2. Ba., 1714—1772. | 1813—1910. Ba., 8. |
| | 3. Ba., 1772—1812. | „ Ma., 8. |
| | 4. Ma., 1735—1753. | „ Bu., 4. |
| | 5. Ma., 1754—1789. | 28 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gaps, Bu., 1644—1647; 1653—1661. One entry in 1656; two in 1657; one in 1660.

Reg. 1 states: "Let it be remembered That Mr Henry Arnold of Bromleigh Clerke being Elected at a Vestry to be Parish Register of Bromleigh aforesayd was approved of by mee William Skynner one of the Justices of the Peace of this County and tooke his Oath before mee for the due execution of the sayd Office on the Eleaventh Day of October in the year of our Lord 1653.

"So I testify William Skynner."

Deaths of the Plague: 8 in 1665; 6 in 1666.

"The 14th of Maye, the reverend father John, Byshop of Rochester, had his funeral solemnized, his sonne Mr John Younge being chiefe mourner, 1605."

"May 31, 1631. The R^t Rev. Father in God, John Buckeridge the L^d Bishop of Ely, sometime Bishop of Rochester, buried."

"1583. Memorand yt Samson Calthrope & Thomas Johnson beinge examined did confesse y^t ye said Calthrope did rase y^e last lyne of this page and instead of these words Thomas y^e Bastard sonne of Joane Butler did falsify it as now it standes prout apparel ex actis et exhibitis in hac caā factis in anno 1634 et dñus decrevit prout in actis. Will Reynoldes, Regrī." The entry as it stands is in 1583, "The 26th Thomas sonne of William Johnson."

"A Register of those that had Certificates (under the Hands & Seals of the Minister & Churchwardens of the Parish of Bromley in the County of Kent) of their not having been Touch'd by his Mat^y for the King's Evill, according to an order in Councel made the 9th day of January, 1683.

"November 25th 1684. Anne the daughter of Mary Cook."

24th July 1814 there is a note of the Repeal of Acts with respect to Burials in Woollen.

In the Burial Reg., 1779—1812, there is a note recording the burglary of the Vestry on April 13, 1791, and the theft of the Communion Plate, gold fringe of Hangings, Table Cloth and napkins.

The burial of the wife of Dr Johnson is thus recorded: "1752 March 26th Elizabeth Johnson of ye Parish of St Bride's London. M^r Denenen, Minister."

BROMLEY. HOLY TRINITY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1843—1910. Ba., 2. | 1843—1910. Bu., 1. |
| ,, Ma., 2. | 5 Volumes. |

II.—Only modern records of no historical interest.

BROMLEY. ST. LUKE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—Ba., 1887—1910. 2. | Ma., 1889—1910. 2. |
| | 4 Volumes. |

II.—V. M. Bk. Inventory. A few deeds.

BROMLEY. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—Ba., 1880—1910. 2. | Ma., 1881—1910. 2. |
| | 4 Volumes. |

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1881—1910. Tithe Map and awards. Boundaries in *London Gazette*.

BICKLEY. ST. GEORGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1865—1910. Ba., 3. | 1865—1910. Ma., 1. |
| | 4 Volumes. |

II.—V. M. Bk. Inventory, 1895. Eight Faculties for improving the Church.

BICKLEY. PLAISTOW. ST. MARY.

- I.—1863—1910. Ba., 4. 1865—1910. Bu., 2.
 1864—1910. Ma., 2. 8 Volumes.
- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1873—1910. Inventory.
-

BURHAM. ST. MARY.

- I.—1. Mx., 1625—1797. 1813—1910. Ba., 4.
 2. Mx., 1798—1812. „ Ma., 3.
 3. Ma., 1756—1812. „ Bu., 2.
 12 Volumes.

Reg. 2. Several pages missing in middle, probably blank. Entries of money received at Holy Communion and how expended at the end. 1644—1660, entries as usual.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1630—1688; 1709—1757; 1757—1884. V. M. Bk. in use about 70 years old.
-

CHALK. ST. MARY.

- I.—1. Ba., Ma., 1661—1768. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.
 2. Ba., Bu., 1768—1812. „ Ma., 4.
 3. Ma., 1755—1812. „ Bu., 2.
 11 Volumes.

Reg. 1 and 2. No binding; loose leaves stitched together; very poor condition. Reg., 1813—74, Ba.; no binding. Some years ago the Registers were stolen, carried across the Thames into Essex in the safe and there found floating in a pond. They were collected, restored, dried and stitched together. There is an indexed copy.

There is a deed chest bound with iron for two padlocks, 1788.

- II.—A few old rate books. Preachers' Book, 1895—1910.
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CHATHAM. ST. MARY.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| I.— 1. Mx., 1569—1614. | 11. Ma., 1796—1810. |
| 2. Mx., 1615—1653. | 12. Ma., 1810—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1653—1666. | 13. Ba., 1772—1812. |
| 4. Mx., 1666—1676. | 14. Bu., 1678—1746. |
| 5. Mx., 1676—1754. | 15. Bu., 1746—1798. |
| 6. Ma., 1754—1762. | 16. Bu., 1799—1819. |
| 7. Ma., 1762—1772. | 1813—1910. Ba., 19. |
| 8. Ma., 1772—1780. | „ Ma., 18. |
| 9. Ma., 1781—1786. | „ Bu., 21, end |
| 10. Ma., 1786—1796. | in 1897. |

74 Volumes.

1644—1660. Entries excellent in the same writing, by John Billingsley. Account of the Plague, 1665-6, March 6, 1665—Feb. 7., 1666, 534 deaths; seven, eight or nine burials daily at the height of the plague.

II.—Chw. and Ov. Acc. V. M. Bk. Inventory. Ralf Paine's Charity. Faculties.

CHATHAM. ST. JOHN THE DIVINE.

I.—1853—1910. Ba., 6. 1853—1910. Ma., 4.
10 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc.; V. M. Bk., 1845—1910. “Proceedings relative to the New Church,” 1818. Concerning relief, 1845.

CHATHAM. ST. PAUL.

I.—1855—1910. Ba., 6. 1855—1910. Ma., 5. .
11 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1855—1910.

CHATHAM. LUTON. CHRIST CHURCH.

I.—1852—1910. Ba., 7. 1852—1910. Bu., 2.
,, Ma., 4. 13 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk.

CHELSFIELD. ST. MARTIN.

I.—1. Mx., 1558—1754. 1813—1910. Ma., 2.
2. Ma., 1755—1812. „ Bu., 2.
1813—1910. Ba., 2. 8 Volumes.

1644—60. Regular entries by the Rector.

Here is also the original paper Register of the daughter Church of Farnborough (*q.v.*) dating from 1538.

The Register contains Memoranda of—

Plague in London, 1563, 1593, 1603.

Destruction of “ Powles Steple ” by lightning, 1561; the Thames frozen in 1564; a great snow, 1578.

Progresses of Queen Elizabeth to Oxford 1566 and Cambridge 1564.

The marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to Darnley, 1565; the birth of James VI. of Scotland, 1566; the Death of Elizabeth and accession of James I., 1562-3.

The foundation of the London Burse, 1566; the Rebellion in the North, 1569.

Godparents are entered 1575—1602.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., modern. Terrier. Inventory. Charities: Colleth's for Church Repair and Poor; Colegate's for the poor; Bell Ropes' Charity.

CHEVENING. ST. BOTOLPH.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1745. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1745—1813. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Bu., 1678—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 10 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Entries, 1643—51, in the same hand and copied from another document.

Gap, 1651—1684. Burials end 1651. Ba., 1655—1662, are copied in at the end. Only one entry in 1671, none in 1672—4, two in 1675 and two in 1678.

Reg. 2. No Ma., 1745—1813, except one in 1746, two in 1749, two in 1750.

A few Latin entries of the deaths of the Monarch or a Rector's wife. Baptisms of a few adult Anabaptists.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1748—1910. Chw. Sacrament Bk., 1820 and 1848. Assessments, 1778. Ov. Acc., 1815—37, 3 vols. Briefs in Reg. 3, 1707—1751 and 1805—1812. V. M. Bk., 1820—1910. Inventory, 1910. Maps and plans of Rectory, 1783, 1842. Copy of Deed of Strode and Wyndham Charity for apprentices.

CHIDDINGSTONE. ST. MARY.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1565—1598. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 5. |
| 2. Mx., 1631—1730. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Bu., 1672—1776. | " | Bu., 3. |
| 4. Mx., 1730—1796. | " | 16 Volumes. |
| 5. Mx., 1796—1812. | 1678—1776. | Book of Burials |
| 6. Ma., 1755—1812. | | in Woollen. |

Reg. 1. Black leather with bands; five leaves at beginning and several at end torn out. Gap between Reg. 1 and 2, 1598—1631.

Reg. 2, 1644—1660. Many Ba., 29 Ma., 147 Bu. Written in a legible manner; different handwriting from that of Edward Powell, Rector to 1641 and again 1651—1661, succeeded by Thomas

Potter, 1662. [Thomas Segliard was appointed by Cromwell during the Civil War, 1641 to 1651.] One or two insertions are made by Edward Powell between those of Thomas Segliard, which looks as if Thomas Segliard had forgotten to fill in the Register.

There are two painted wooden boxes.

Copy of fly-leaf of Reg., 1631—1730 : “The Booke of Rigestering for the Parish of Chiddigstone in the Counte of Kente. Anno Dome. 1643. The Sarves Booke was laide down. Anno Dom. 1662. The Sarves Booke againe was founde.

“ November y^e 13 in 1658 was a greete floode the Greateſt that ever was knowne ſo that house was floowne.

“ Anno Dom. 1661. The 23rd of Aprill. A Day of Renowne. King Charles The Second wore the Crowne. Anno Dom. 1662 Ffbruary the 28 a greate hi wine which never was knowne by no mans time. It blewe downe houſing and greeſt trees. And drowned ſheep upon the ſeaſes.

“ 1669 as I would have you call to mine the 25 of December the hardeſt froſt you can remember.

“ May 10th 1717 I received this book. Charles Hinde.”

II.—Chw. Acc., 1565—1847, 17 vols., also containing Ov. Acc. Terrier and Inventory, modern. Account Book of “The Good Friday Gift,” left by Lady Margaret Hyde, Bove Place. Rent of 2 Cottages & a piece of land, £12. Account Book of “The St Thomas’ Gift” left by Thomas Nevitt, R. Goodheugh and J. Pelſett, £8.

Notes by Mr. Leland Duncan on Chiddigstone Registers after a personal visit :—

“ The most interesting of the Chiddigstone books is that which we must call Register No. 1. It is a large quarto, of paper, of 256 folios, bound in its original limp tooled leather cover with flap, and had originally a buckle and strap. The former only remains. This book has Baptisms, Burials, Marriages and accounts, etc., entered indiscriminately, though doubtless at the start there was order. Folios 1 to 22 are torn out and with them the first page of the Baptisms; otherwise the book is complete.” “ The earliest parchment Register, which began 23 Oct. 1558 and went to 1631, is now lost, but two small books exist containing extracts from this of the entries relating to names common in the parish, apparently made about 1742, and though evidently not exhaustive they help to bridge the gap.”

In a private letter Mr. Duncan explains as follows :—

“ According to the Parliamentary Return 1831 Chiddigstone had I.—III., Ba., Bu., 1558—1796; Ma. 1558—1753, interrupted by IV., Bu., 1678—1776. (This is the “Woollen” Register I have called III.)

“ According to the little books of notes, to which I have referred, from the oldest Register, the first book began 23 Oct. 1558. This, there can be no doubt, is No. 1 of the 1831 return. I think too there can be no doubt it was (from its date) a parchment transcript.

"The Paper Book, now called No. 1, which contains Ba., Ma., Bu. and accounts, is I should say unique. I have never seen a similar book (though that's not saying very much). Whether there was *also* a separate paper Register is hard to say. I should hardly think so; but it is curious that the Ba., Bu., Ma. only run 1565—1598, and Register No. 2 begins in 1631, so that there must have been something between, unless what I suspect was the case was this:—

"They had a yet earlier book of similar character 1538—1565; then comes this Vol., 1565—1598. Then came the first order to rewrite on parchment, and they copied out again all the entries down to that year and continued them in their new book till 1631, when it became full and they purchased another new book. I should say this is the story and that this is the original paper register of Cromwell's Injunctions. It must be, because for the years it covers there was no other order on the subject. At least I think not. Subsequently they filled up the pages with accounts only.

"In starting the book they evidently opened five headings: Baptisms, fol. 22 or 20. Marriages, fol. 84. Burials, fol. 124. Accounts (Payments), fol. 165; (Receipts) fol. 195."

Other records according to Mr. Leland Duncan:—

I. Churchwardens' Books: 1, Chw. Acc., 1691—1749. 2, Ch. Bk., 1750—86. 3, Bk. of Mem^o, 1790—1830. 4, Bk. of Mem^o, containing Lists of Officers from 1735, Workhouse rules, 1740, Ch. Repairs, 1814—18, Ringing Days, Fees, Briefs, 1735—62. 5, Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1880—1910. 6, St Thomas's Day Charity Bk., 1737—1910. 7, Good Friday Charity, 1858—1910.

II. Overseers' Accounts, 1598—1878. 15 vols.

Surveyors' Bks., 1755—1808. Rate Bks., 1840—80. Highways, 1840—60. Preachers' Book, 1864—95, 2 vols. Two small Population Bks., 1811, 1821. Book of Boundaries, 1823. A large collection of bills, licences, etc., dating from latter part of the eighteenth century.

A paper of twelve leaves of "The Notts of the several accounts as they have been Raised within the Parish of Chiddigstone by way of Taxe, Fine, voluntary contribution, Tickett, Exise, Sequestration, or other wise." It begins, "Subsidies in 1640." "Lent to the State towards raysing of an 100,000 pounds for the Scots upon tickett." There is also a "Notte of such goods as hath been plundred from severall inhabytants of Chiddigstone and by whome they were taken." The following is an example:—

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>"All this plundered by Cap. Bonuell.</p> | <p>Plundred from Robert Streatfield in the year 1643 in money the sume of £22. One mare stagg which the said Robert Streatfield was ofered for the sume of £10."</p> |
|---|--|

"This is well written and refers to sums raised in the time of the Commonwealth."

CHIDDINGSTONE CAUSEWAY. ST. LUCY.

I.—1899—1910. Ba., 1. 1899—1910. Bu., 1.
" Ma., 1. 3 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1901—1910. V. M. Bk., 1906—1910. Map of Parish.

CHISLEHURST. ST. NICHOLAS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1650. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1681—1815. | " Ma., 4. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1801. | " Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1802—1812. | 14 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Transcript on Parchment with a small portion of the original on paper bound up with it.

1644—1660. Same in character. A few notes in Latin.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1833—1854. V. M. Bk., 1753—1910. 4 vols. Terriers, 1737. 1776. 1896. Inventory. Plan of Church and Churchyard. Four Faculties. Volume of Certificates of Burials in Woollen, 1675—1695. Parish Bounds. Gifts. Plate. Briefs, etc. Copies of documents for enlarging Churchyard, 1893, and consecration of enlarged Church.

CHISLEHURST WEST. THE ANNUNCIATION.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1871—1910. Ba., 3. | 1871—1910. Bu., 2. |
| 1875—1910. Ma., 2. | 7 Volumes. |

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1875—1910. Inventory, 1875—1910. Map of Parish Bounds. Plan of Church and Churchyard.

CHISLEHURST. CHRIST CHURCH.

I.—1872—1910. Ba., 1. 1906—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1872—1910. Terrier. Inventory. Records of Preachers and Collections, 1872—1910. 4 vols. *London Gazette*, assuring the Parish, July 6, 1906. Conveyance of Vicarage, Dec. 1, 1909. Three Faculties, 1901, 1906, 1907.

CLIFFE AT HOO. ST. HELEN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1608. | 5. Ma., 1754—1813. |
| 2. Mx., 1613—1654. | 1818—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Mx., 1662—1720. | „ Ma., 3. |
| 4. Mx., 1702—1812. | „ Bu., 4. |

16 Volumes.

Gaps between Reg. 1 and 2, 1608—1613, and 2 and 3, 1654—1662, 1644—1660. Gaps, Ba., 1654—66; Ma., 1651—66; Bu., 1653—60. Entries made by Edward Boo (Bee?), “Parish Registrar of Cliffe,” 1652. Latin in 1559.

One entry concerning Penance, 1577.

July 25, 1588. “The camp begane at Tilbury in Essex.”

In Reg. 2: burials of “Chrism children” and “in woollen.”

April 1640. Persons married by licence from Bishop of Rochester and Exempt Jurisdiction of Cliffe.

1679. John Browne buried in linen and the forfeit was paid; 50/- to the Poor and the rest to the Informer.

1872. Silver Coin of Gallienus found in Wharf Lane.

There is an Ancient Deed Chest, 1684.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1743. Ov. Acc., 1744. Brief Bk., 1744, and in 1669 in Reg. Tithe Map. Two plans of Church. Record of Charities.

COBHAM. ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1655—1729. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1728—1812. | „ Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |

10 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1663—1732, 2 vols.; 1773—1829, 5 vols. Ov. Acc., 1661—1688; 1746—1781, 2 vols.; 1830—1849, 3 vols. Inventory of Funds. Valuation Book. Parish apprenticeship. Rate Books, 5 vols. Highway Acc., 3 vols. Water Rate Book. V. M. Bk., 3 vols.

Copy of Grant, Henry VIII. and James I. Rules regulating the admission of the New College of Cobham.

Judgement, Stokes *v.* Savage, 1845, *re* Vicar's Tithes.

Extraordinary Tithe Award, 1845. Faculty, 1880.

Conveyance of additional churchyard, 1900.

Deed of Bonham Hayes Charity.

{ Release Deed of Trust.

{ Order of Charity Commissioners.

{ Conveyance of property to the Earl of Darnley.

“Notes on the Church and Parochial Accounts in the 17th and 18th Centuries,” by Mr. A. A. Arnold, Cobhambury.

COOLING. ST. JAMES.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1707—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 1. | | 6 Volumes. |

Reg. 1 states, "This Register was bought pursuant to my injunctions at a Parochial visitation held at Cowling Augst 22nd, 1732; and what goes before is, I find, a true transcript of what was registered in a paper book imperfectly kept. Witness my hand, Augst 18th, 1736."

"John Denne, Archdeacon of Rochester."

There is an oak chest with three locks; no record of date.

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1848—1910. | Ov. Acc., 1836—1868. | V. M. Bk., |
| 1848—1910. | | |

COWDEN. ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1566—1677. | 6. Mx., 1806—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1680—1803. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1770. | " Ma., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1771—1803. | " Bu., 1. |
| 5. Ma., 1803—1812. | 11 Volumes. |

Reg. 1 and 2 were transcribed and bound in one volume, 1829.
Gap, 1678 and 1679.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1599—1715. | Partly printed in <i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i> , vol. xx., pp. 91—119. |
|---------------------------|--|

CRAY, FOOTS. ALL SAINTS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1673. | 6. Ma., 1784—1811. |
| 2. Mx., 1674—1725. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1726—1783. | " Ma., 2. |
| 4. Mx., 1783—1812. | " Bu., 2. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1783. | 13 Volumes. |

Reg. 1 and 2 are in part transcripts pieced together and very indistinct and time-worn in places.

1644—1660. Baptisms only, badly written.

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|--|----------------------------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1876—1910, 2 vols. | Ov. Acc., 1827—1910, 2 vols. |
| V. M. Bk., 1727—1910, 4 vols. | Inventory on a loose sheet. |
| Parish Poor Apprentice Book, 1811—1816. | Faculty for Screen. |
| Consecration of two additions to Churchyard. | Title Deeds of National Schools. |
| Charities payable to Foots-Cray. | Reference to Chislehurst |

CRAY. ST. MARY.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1579—1755. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1755—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1810. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 11 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 3. Gap, Ma., 1810—1814.

1644—1660. Baptisms only.

- II.—Sacraments and Brief Book, 1775—1817. Preachers' Book, 1888—1910, 3 vols. Records of Withers's and Mooyer's Charities. Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk.
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CRAY, NORTH. ST. JAMES.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1724. | 5. Ma., 1783—1812. | |
| 2. Mx., 1724—1783. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1783—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1755—1783. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 10 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1. Transcript to Oct. 1607.

1644—1660. Entries as usual, the Rev. Josias Bull, Prebendary of St. Paul's, being Rector, 1632—1656. But Jan. 1657, Richard Owen, D.D., was admitted to the "Rectory of N. Cray by the Commissioners of Approbation of Public Preachers."

A little book, 1678, contains four entries of Burial and record of Surplice Fees, value of the Living, Offerings, Communion Alms and Disbursements to 1723.

Latin. May 24, 1683. "Carolus Weale A.B. Rector de North Cray admissns fuit."

July 1701. "Jonathan Reave. A.B., Rector de North Cray cum Ruxley admissus et inductus fuit."

There is an old chest lined with sheet iron, much decayed, with two locks, containing old rate books.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1815—1910, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., 1782—1807, and 1812—1836, 5 vols. Highway Bks., 1793—1817, 1836—1837, 1843—1844, 3 vols.

Briefs in Reg. 1, beginning 1658, e.g. "Dec. 1670 towards ye Redemption of ye English under Turkish Slavery," with names of donors, £4 10. 0. 1665, Aug. to Feb., except Dec., monthly collections for "Relief of the Poore infested with ye Plague in this Diocese or in London as ye Bishop shall direct." 1709, Oct. 16 and 17, for the "Relief of several thousand poor distressed Palatines lying in camp on Blackheath near London that same summer, 1709," with names of donors, £13 6. 4. V. M. Bk., 1712—1910, 2 vols.

Terrier in Reg., dated 1706 and 1724, and Modern, 1895.

Conveyances of land for schools, 1857, 1860, 1894.
Faculties, 1857 and 1870. Conveyance of land for Parsonage, 1873.

Parchment deed signed by Cardinal Pole, 1557, for the deconsecration of Ruxley Church and joining the two Parishes of Ruxley and North Cray together; large seal in iron box, 5 by 3 inches.

Charities: North Cray Trust Estates, 1776—1828, and Book, 1828, of accounts of the same.

CRAY, ST. PAUL'S. ST. PAULINUS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1580—1765. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1766—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |

9 Volumes.

Gap, 1642—1654, except three Baptisms in 1640—1650 and two in 1658—9. In 1663 a Baptism is entered by "John Ashley, Minister, who the yeare 1662 caue into the Rectory of Paul's Cray." Wm. Serafton succeeded 1703—1740; Edward Barnard, B.D., Fellow of St. John's Coll., Camb., and Provost of Eton, 1752—1781; John Simons, sometime Curate, 1781—1836.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1817—1833 and 1869—1910. V. M. Bk., 1828—1910. Terrier and Inventory. Extract of will of Mrs. Arabella Everest, of St. Paul's Cray, 1872, bequeathing money for Coals for the Poor. Easement through Glebe, 1884. Exchange of Land between Rector and J. Chapman, 1852.

CRAYFORD. ST. PAULINUS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1628. | 5. Ma., 1779—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1629—1705. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Mx., 1706—1812. | " Ma., 5. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1779. | " Bu., 5. |

19 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Latin, 1558—1603, and occasionally later. Heading, "Ab initio regni serenissimæ principis Elizabethæ registrū Parochie Crayford in Com. Ke . ." Also on first page, "James the first of that name by the grace of God King of England, France, Scotland and Ireland was pclaimed the xxviii of March eni fax et salus in Christo . . . p me Willm Heyes Curate." Entries of several armigerous families, Harman, Goldsmith, Marler. Francis Goldsmith, translator of Grotius, baptized 1617; one of the Seymours of the Hertford family buried 1602; Thomas Blague, Dean of Rochester, one of the Rectors. After a baptism in 1601 is a note, "finitum est hoc loco." At the end, "The Articles of Religion agreed . . .

convocation 1562 were red . . . Thomas Blague in pish church at Crayford after evenyng praier on . . . Day being 22nd March 1599 . . . consent publicly ptested to the same being Inducted the 22nd of Mche before . . . Easter Even. (Signed by) Clem. Goldsmith, Edm. Balam, Edward Marler, W^m Heyes, Jo. Selbanoke, William Knooks." "1600 Sep. Johannes Done sacrae Theologiae Doctor duxit uxorem . . . filiam Thomæ Blague Decani Roffensis cū licentia Archiepiscopi."

Reg. 2. "March xith 1653. Whereas accordinge to thee late Acte for chusinge ye Register in everye parish thee inhabitants of thee pish of Craford have chosen Will. Lithell to execute the said place, I have thervore given him his Oath accordinge to the said Acte for the faithfull performinge of the same place, I doe hereby accordinge to thee Scertificate of the pish confirme the said Will. Lithell in the said place as A register given under my hand thee time above said

JOHN TWISLETON."

This is followed by "Births & Public Marriages this year" in parallel columns, "borne," "were mared," till 1660 and 1659. Plenty of Baptisms from 1644 to 1660. In 1665 seven Plague burials, *e.g.*, "Sept. 29 Thomas, s. of Henry Fenner pest," but only in two families. Sir Edwin Sandys, who died from wounds received at the battle of Worcester, was married to Catherine Champney, 1632.

At end three licences to eat flesh in 1632, 1633 and 1663: *e.g.*, "A license granted to Anne Vane being with child & very sickly to eate flesh. March 18, 1632. Thomas Vane"; also "a true Register of all those yt ha . . . been buried in woollen only since ye first of August 1678," but only eight entries. Then "1765 Feb. 4 Jn^o Kent Esq. paid the penalty for burying in linnen."

Also a list of "Fees agreed upon at a Vestry in ye Parish Church of Crayford Anno Domini 1632," *cf.* p. 21. Also one Brief for Bere Regis, 1635.

Reg. 3. Lady Shovell, widow of Sir Clodesley Shovel of May Place, Crayford, was buried 1732.

June 1780, several soldiers were buried from "59 Rigiont," "Montgumery," "Northamton," "Rutland" and "East York" Militia.

There is a deal chest with two locks, lid studded with nails and painted red; no date.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1839—1869, 18 vols. Ov. Acc., 1719—1818, 6 vols. Weekly Pensions, 1826—1836. State of Crayford Workhouse, 1801—1833. V. M. Bk., 1722—1760, 1805—1865, 2 vols. Churchyard Extension, 1858. Enclosure Award, 1820. Faculty, 1887. Allnutt Charity Transfer, 1878.

CROCKENHILL. ALL SOULS.

I.—1852—1910. Ba., 3. 1852—1910. Bu., 2.
Ma., 3. 8 Volumes.

II.—Memoranda Book, 1881—1899. V. M. Bk., 1899—1910.
Papers relating to several charities, being Charity Commission Reports and London Gazettes. Copy of Trust Deed of National School.

CROCKHAM HILL. HOLY TRINITY.

I.—1842—1910. Ba., 2. 1842—1910. Bu., 1.
Ma., 1. 4 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1863—1910. Assignment of Parish. Faculty
1908.

CUDHAM. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1653—1732. | 5. Ma., 1789—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1733—1762. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1763—1800. | " Ma., 2. |
| 4. Mx., 1801—1812. | " Bu., 3. |
| 12 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1 contains no marriages.

Reg. 2. No marriages till 1734.

Gap, 1744—1747.

Reg. 5. Not the proper Hardwicke Reg., but a plain book of banns. After some banns, "This marriage took place on," with signatures.

II.—Briefs in Reg. Terrier. Inventory. Faculty.

CUXTON. ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | " Bu., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 3. | 9 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. A rebinding of older books.

Gaps, Ba. 1640—1646, only four entries; Ma., 1639—1646 and 1693—1702; Bu., 1640—1646.

Entries apparently made by John Robinson, instituted Minister 1640, who probably conformed in 1660; buried 1674. Burials in woollen, 1678—1721, entered with name of person making the oath. The marriages, 1695—1758, were of few Cuxton inhabitants.

There is an iron chest with two padlocks; formerly a large lock inside the lid.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1850—1910, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., modern. Terrier, July 20, 1757, and Maps of Parish in eighteenth century, bound in a Book of papers of Rectory of Cuxton, new bound 1756, which contains papers about Tithes and disputes with the owner of Cobham and the Dean and Chapter of Rochester; among these a lease of Malling Abbey Tythes of 77 acres settled at the Dissolution on the Dean and Chapter of Rochester; entries to 1833. A Memorandum Book begun by Rev. R. Chapman, Rector 1811—1831, giving an incomplete list of Rectors from 1200. Laud, afterwards Archbishop, was instituted Rector 1610. Chalice and paten, 1618-19.

DARENTH. ST. MARGARET.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1678—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1695—1724. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1724—1758. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 10 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1 has a baptism in 1673. The first few pages are in Latin.

Reg. 2 and 3. The entries after 1701 have been transcribed into Reg. 1 by Rev. Sam. Denne, Vicar.

1688. Certificate for King's Evil.

1674. "One peece of Glebe land belonging to the Vicharidge of Darenth" near "St Margaret's Chapple."

1729. "Receipt of £3 : 6 : 8 from gift of Sir Thomas Smith, deceased, formerly of the Parish of Sutton-at-Hone; Aug^t further 20/- to make up full amount of £4 . 6 . 8 to be distributed in bread." Receipt form for above from Skinners' Company. Receipt form for augmentation of Darenth living by Dean and Chapter of Rochester, £10 for the half year.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1820—1826. V. M. Bk., 1771—1910, 3 vols. Bread Book, 1858—1861. Highway Book, 1851—1857. Typed copy of Registers, 1678—1812, by T. Colyer Ferguson. Parish Map. Account book of Parish Charities.

DARTFORD. HOLY TRINITY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1718. | 6. Ma., 1788—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1718—1778. | 1813—1910. Ba., 9. |
| 3. Mx., 1778—1812. | „ Ma., 7. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1763. | „ Bu., 7. |
| 5. Ma., 1763—1788. | 29 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Damaged by flood water. 1644—1660, entries as usual, except Ma., 1644—1653.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1846—1910. Award Map.

DARTFORD. CHRIST CHURCH.

- I.—1910 Ba., 1. 1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.
-

DARTFORD. ST. ALBAN.

- I.—1903—1910. Ba., 1. 1903—1910. Bu., 1.
" Ma., 2. 4 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., current.
-

DITTON. ST. PETER.

- I.—1. Mx., 1663—1812. 1813—1910. Ma., 2.
2. Ma., 1755—1812. " Bu., 1.
1813—1910. Ba., 2. 7 Volumes.
Reg. 1 rebound 1890.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1677—1835, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., 1731—1877, 5 vols.
V. M. Bk., 1832—1910. Terrier and Inventory in vol. 1 of
Chw. Acc. Map of Ditton Common and Tithe Map.
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DOWNE. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

- I.—1. Mx., 1538—1733. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.
2. Mx., 1697—1812. " Ma., 2.
3. Ma., 1755—1812. " Bu., 2.
9 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Transcript to 1639. 1644—1660, very few entries.
Reg. 1 and 2 copied by Mr. Crisp of Camberwell.

- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., current.
-

DUNTON GREEN. ST. JOHN THE DIVINE.

- I.—1. Ba., 1889—1910. 3. Bu., 1893—1910.
2. Ma., 1890—1910. 3 Volumes.

- II.—V. M. Bk. and Inventory.
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EDENBRIDGE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1546—1603. | 6. Ba., 1799—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1638—1687. | 7. Bu., 1799—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1688—1736. | 1813—1910. Ba., 6. |
| 4. Ma., 1736—1799. | „ Ma., 4. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ Bu. 3. |

20 Volumes.

Reg. I. Latin, 1546—1557. The original binding consists of two leaves of a fourteenth-century Benedictional. Rebound 1907. One volume lost, 1603—1638. 1644—1660, Marriages as usual except three civil marriages attested by John Seyliard, a Layman of Brasted. Extracts of local interest have been printed in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XXI., p. 283.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1714—1737, 180 pages, contains Receipts of Briefs, copies of Securities given from Edenbridge, and Surveyors' Accounts, also current Accounts. Ov. Acc., 1882—1884, 4 vols. V. M. Bk. current. Terrier and Inventory. Ordnance Map. Records of Charities: 1, Church Repairs, £3; 2, Church Repairs, £4; 3, Germon's, fuel for the poor; 4, Holmden's, bread for the poor; 5, Interest of £325 for Sunday Schools.

The first Register is the original paper book, c. 1545—1602, which has survived, while the parchment transcript with original entries to 1638, which no doubt was made in 1603, has been lost. It is therefore the most interesting Register in the Diocese, and the Rev. G. M. Livett, F.S.A., who has examined it, gives the following account of it:—

"This Register is a paper book in a vellum cover. At the beginning and the end the leaves, which measure 12" by 8", are much torn and stained by damp, while some are missing. The book has recently been rebound in half leather, the leaves being treated with boiled parchment and the torn portions re-inforced with new paper. The original parchment cover, taken doubtless from a disused pre-Reformation service-book, probably a Manual, contains 'Benedictions' (*cf.* Wordsworth and Littlehales, *Old Service Books*). There are now 62 leaves: the 60th, the last of the Register proper, contains entries dated 1602; the first is a new sheet containing a scrap of one of the missing leaves, which the recent binder could not locate. The Register proper begins on leaf 2; the date is torn off, but there remains a portion of an endorsement which can be read as 'No. (II.).' This endorsement (further described *infra*) postulates an earlier paper book, now lost. Leaf 4 is dated 1547, and working backwards from that date it appears that the extant Register was commenced at the end (January) of 1545 (Old Style). There is a gap in the entries between 1566 and 1569, the whole of the records of 1567-68 being absent, and parts of 1565, 1566 and 1569. The gap seems to mark the end of the paper book 'No. II.', the back of leaf 24 (1566)

being much soiled as though it had lain on dusty tables. This being so, there must be more than one of the original paper books of the period bound up in the present volume, and leaf 25 (1569) must begin book No. III., though it is not so endorsed.

"No. III. runs on to the end of the volume: the only gap it shews lies between leaves 58 and 59, where the whole of the records 1589—1601 are missing. The water-marks confirm this theory: in No. II., consisting originally of about 26 leaves, the mark is the letter P with a five-petalled flower rising above it; with No. III., consisting of about two quires, there begins a different mark, an open hand with similar flower, which runs through the first quire, the second quire shewing a jug and flower. The results of this analysis may be briefly summed up: in the period 1538—1602 the Edenbridge records were entered in three successive paper books, of which No. I. (1538—1545) is lost, and Nos. II. (1545—1566) and III. (1569—1602), stitched into the vellum cover after 1602, are preserved in this volume.

"The endorsement 'No. II.' appears on the inside of the vellum cover as well as on the first page of the Register; it was made, therefore, after books II. and III. were stitched together. This would account for the absence of any endorsement of number from the first leaf of the book begun in 1569. In the same hand, on the front of the first page and amid the entries, appears the following note:—

In fine

ffarmer sen^r & al ad/v Lewis cl'eu & al
This booke no : II. was shewne unto Adam
ffarmer Jun^r exam'ed on ye defts parte before me
WILL. SIMPSON.

"An erasure shews that Adam Farmer, Jun., wrote the note and that he signed it by mistake. The signature 'Will. Simpson' is in a different hand. The note indicates that the Register was examined by Adam Farmer acting on the part of the defendants in a lawsuit: Farmer, senior, and another *adversus* Lewis, clerk, and another. The heading 'In fine' indicates that the suit was one of those fictitious cases brought into court on the conveyance of property for the purpose of securing the title thereto by enrolment in the *Pedes Finium* or 'Feet of Fines.' Mr. Leland Duncan (who is a little doubtful about the contracted word which I have ventured to interpret, *al=alias*=‘another’) thinks the script is ‘early Jacobean.’ Of course ‘No. II.’ was written at the top of the first page and of the cover to identify the book examined and to distinguish it from the earlier Register and from the Register begun in 1603—the parchment book, containing a transcript of the entries in the early paper books, together with further entries up to 1638, which unfortunately is lost.

"I add a few further notes briefly expressed. The entries up to the end of 1557 are in Latin; from 1558 in English. There are many different scripts. The order of entries is sometimes cou-

fused ; e.g. in 1558 one hand made two entries in May and June, and another followed with a long list beginning in April. Some entries are erased ; e.g. in 1554 the scribe, entering the records of the whole year at one time, probably possessed two sets of memoranda and inadvertently made some entries from the wrong list, possibly that of Westerham, of which Edenbridge was then a Chapelry. In some periods the entries seem to have been made 'every Sonday' in accordance with the Injunction. From 1551 for a few years the entries are methodically made in a hand that suddenly ceases in September, 1557 ; perhaps the writer was a victim of the plague, for 17 burials occur in September, October and November of that year as against 9 in the previous 23 months ; and there are no less than 35 in 1558, of which 28 fall in the six winter months, October to March. Under the heading of the year 1560—the first use of Arabic figures—the name *Dyllwor(th)* appears : Thomas Dilworth was Vicar of Westerham in 1561 (*cf.* Fielding). In 1575 begins a custom of recording the names of God-parents, and in 1580 that of recording also the date of birth. Both cease with the introduction of a new hand in 1586. In this period the baptism sometimes took place on the day of birth, seldom later than the second day after birth. The new hand of 1586 becomes shaky in 1595 and afterwards makes only an occasional entry, the rest being in a younger and firmer hand. Then comes the gap, 1596—1601, and leaf 60 contains on the front and back two apparently complete and certainly different sets of records for 1602 : this is puzzling. On the back of that leaf, under the Baptisms, appears the signature of 'John Bauise Churchwarden.'"

ERITH. ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

1877—1910. Ba., 4.
" Ma., 3.

1877—1910. Bu., 4.
11 Volumes.

A fire broke out on Feb. 21, 1877, in a temporary church in which registers, etc., had been placed during restoration of the Parish Church.

Baptism Registers, 1625—1830 and 1873—1877, were destroyed, the rest seriously damaged.

Marriage Registers 1625—1830 were destroyed ; 1863—1876 almost destroyed ; 1813—1863 seriously damaged.

Burial Registers, 1625—1813 and 1858—1873, were destroyed ; 1813—1858 seriously damaged.

A sworn copy of Extracts from Registers 1625—1753 was made in 1876 by Messrs. Hovenden and Jackson Howard and is in the Church safe. Copies of the damaged Registers were made by the Rev. T. W. Hardy, Vicar, viz., Baptisms 1830—1873 ; Marriages 1813—1863 ; Burials 1813—1858.

- II.—V. M. Bk., 1766—1910, 4 vols. Inventory, 1877. Declaration of Lands enclosed, 1812. Grant of School Site, 1850. Agreement as to Proprietary Rights in Wheatley Chapel. Conveyance of additional Churchyard, 1882. Faculty, 1902.
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ERITH. CHRIST CHURCH.

- I.—1871—1910. Ba., 7. 1875—1910. Ma., 2.
9 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc. V. M. Bks. Inventory.
-

ERITH. ST. PAUL.

- I.—1906—1910. Ba., 1. 1906—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1906—1910. Inventory.
-

EYNSFORD. ST. MARTIN.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1672. | 6. Ma., 1768—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1672—1760. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1761—1788. | „ Ma., 2. |
| 4. Mx., 1789—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1768. | 12 Volumes. |

1644—1660, Entries as usual. Appointment of a "Register" 1654 or 1655. Latin, 1588—1634.

Registers to about 1800 were copied by Mr. A. Hill, Architect. MS. given to the British Museum. Marriages have appeared in Phillimore's *Marriage Registers*. There are a few entries of local doles, charities, inductions, and one brief. V. M. Bk., current.

MS. Book of accounts of charities and list of doles from the (Greenwich) Roper Charity, 1823—1843. Indenture of "Fattlam" Charity, 1622. Grant by Robert Gibbing to his son Nicholas of "Tylehoste," 13 Henry VII. Release by John Gibbing of Tylehoste, 6 Ed. VI.

FARLEIGH, EAST. ST. MARY (?), unknown.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1580—1724. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1725—1812. | „ Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ Bu., 3. |
- 13 Volumes.

1644—1660. Entries made by Vicar and pages signed by Vicar and witnessed by Churchwardens according to Act of Aug. 24, 1653. Augustine Skinner mentioned as "Register."

Memorandum. 1703. The leads of the Church were all removed. Likewise, 1704, the little Chancel in the South side of the Parish Chancel belonging to Pimp's Court was restored (?) by Dr. Griffith Hartley, the owner of Pimp's Court in the right of his wife, relict of Capt. Brown. Arthur Harris, Vicar.

1841. Record of planting trees still existing. Record of Sale of Old Vicarage and Building New. 1816. A long record of rains and state of crops and in 1818 of heat and drought.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1636—1717; 1760—1786; 1815—1864. Ov. Acc., 1699—1763; 1761—1811. Surveyors' Acc., 1715—1750. Entries of Briefs. V. M. Bks., 1743—1772; 1833—1891; 1891—1910.

WEST FARLEIGH. ALL SAINTS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1539—1756. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1731—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |

9 Volumes.

Rebound 1908.

1644—1660. Ba., Bu. as usual with several years blank. Marriages, 1653—1657, by Augustine Skinner Esqre. "Mr Webb, Rector of Barming by consent of the Parishioners of Barming being elected Register did take the oath before me this 8th Ap. 1656."

At the end of Reg. 1. A memo made by the Vicar in 1602 that the Articles as passed in 1562 were read during Service in acc^e with 13 Eliz. Ch. 12. A memo inserted twice in 1633, "That Feb. 2nd 1633 John Reeve was inducted" and "that June 16th 1633 was inducted John Reeve." A reference to disputes about pews in 1690, shewing that men sat on the north and women on the south side. Two copies of licences to eat meat during Lent to Augustine Skynner and William his sounne, dated Feb. 14, 1631 and Feb. 26, 1632, "by virtue of a Statute Law made in the fifth year of the Reigne of Queen Elizabeth." Memo of gifts of pulpit cloth 1716, Cloth for Communion table, 1717; flagon, plate and salver 1721; Anne Gouldston's Charity, 1724, planting trees 1680; a brief 1653. A long Customary of Tithes and other dues, 32nd year of Queen Eliz., cf. p. 21. [Published in *Records of Rochester*, by Fielding, and *The Beauties of England—Kent*, by Britton.]

The Registers have been copied to 1812 by Hon. H. A. Hannen and the Marriages will be published by W. Phillimore in his *Kent Parish Registers—Marriages*.

There is a Deed Chest, date unknown, restored 1910.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1741—1910. Ov. Acc., 1797—1821. V. M. Bk., 1821—1910, 2 vols. Terrier. Inventory. Deeds of Goulston's Charity, 1622—1723. Papers of Apprentices, Pauper Removals and settlements and passes. Correspondence about finding a Processional Crucifix in 1832, which was deposited in the British Museum in 1898 by the Dean of Rochester.

FARNBOROUGH. ST. GILES THE ABBOT.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1.—1. Mx., 1558—1747. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1749—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1793—1812. | " | Bu., ? 2. |

12 Volumes.

"The Registers of Chelsfield, the Mother Church, applying to Farnborough begin 1538. There seems to be no reason why Farnborough should not recover its missing Registers from Chelsfield or any other Church in the neighbourhood that has any."

The original paper book, containing baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1538 at Farnborough is in the iron chest at Chelsfield. At that time Farnborough was a Chapelry of Chelsfield. This paper book is evidently referred to in the following list (see CHELSFIELD) :—

| | |
|--|--|
| Ba., 1547—1556; 1557; 1621—1631; 1636— | Are at the Mother Church at Chelsfield. |
| 1648; 1632. | |
| Ma., 1538—1546; 1547—1555; 1557; 1624— | |
| 1631; 1634—1645; 1652. | |
| Bu., 1538—1558; 1624—1645; 1652; 1524— | |
| 1531 (?). | |

Reg. 1. Latin, 1558—1624.

Memo. 1775, that by the last will and testament of George Dalton, Gent., 1566, the sum of six shillings and eight pence was left for a sermon to be preached every year in the Church of Farnborough. It was customary at the time to have the Church strewed with flags. 1755. 10s. was paid for a sermon every year on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Peter and 3s. 4d. to the Poor in Bread.

The Registers, 1538—1812, have been printed in *The Parish Registers of Farnborough*, by Henry Wilson, M.A., F.S.A. There is a deal chest about 100 years old.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1794—1858; 1887—1910, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., 1717—1829, 9 vols. Highways, 1771—1843, 6 vols. V. M. Bks., 1772—1800; 1825—1910, 5 vols. Terrier, 1712. Inventory, 1907. A number of Apprentice Indentures, Certificates of Settlement, and Ejectment Warrants. Repair of Steeple, 1714. Admission of householders from the Duchy of Lancaster, 1738. Sequestration of Benefice, 1817. Faculty, 1885.

FARNINGHAM. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1589—1719. | 6. Ma., 1776—1810. |
| 2. Mx., 1678—1766. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1720—1783. | „ Ma., 2. |
| 4. Mx., 1783—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1775. | 13 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. 1644—1660. Brief notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths by Thomas Brown, Vicar 1646—1678.

Mem. 1627 referring to “a Booke of Accountes of Mr Hollands in the year of our Lord 1551” relating to Tithes.

Reg. 3. Lists of Vicars 1589—1848 and epitaphs in and improvements to Church and Chancel.

Reg. 4. Proceedings between the Vicar and the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury as to Hop Tithe for years taken by the Rector but recovered in 1840 by the Vicar, Rev. Benjamin Winston.

There is an old Chest, 3 locks, plain, about 300 years old.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1707—1910, 6 vols. Ov. Acc., 1748—1773. Poor’s Book, 1773—1804. Surveyors’ Acc., 1812—1834, 3 vols. Constable’s Bills. Briefs, 1681—1768, in Reg. 2. V. M. Bk., 1792—1910, 3 vols. Terriers, 1772—1840. Inventory, 1896. Also Old Curates’ Licences; Apprentice Bk., 1805—1819; papers of Poor Houses; History of Farningham and Vicars, 1456—1719; Reports on Education and population by census; Bastardy Examinations, orders and bonds, 1729—1834; Orders of Settlement, Removals and acknowledgments, 1703—1835; Letters during nineteenth century; Poor House Bills, 1810; Authority to alter Vicarage, 1807—15; Appraisement of fixtures, 1816; Confirmation lists, 1810—53; Sacrament list, 1838—44; Henry Cox Trust, 1850; Roper’s Charity; will, 1597; accounts; Sunday School Reports, 1815—1849; Apprentice Indentures, 1725—1768.

FAWKHAM. ST. MARY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1568—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba. 2. | „ Bu., 1. |
| | 6 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gaps, Ba., 1779—1784; Bu., 1767—1783 and 1787—1795.

Reg. 1. “The Marriage Register, 1755—1812, has been lost, except a few leaves found in 1829, of which copies have been made.” The copies have been lost.

Reg. 1 has some Latin verses: “In laudem potentissimi Principis Jacobi,” by George Defreyne, baptized 1611, and a list of

patrons and rectors, 1318—1758, by E. M. Barrett, continued to present time.

There is a dilapidated Chest.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1847—1910. Briefs in Reg. 1 to 1690. V. M. Bk., 1833—1861. Terrier, 1839, 1856, 1871. Inventory in Reg., Ba., 1. Maps, 1831, 1871. Copy of John Watts's will giving coats and gowns to 6 men and 6 women in Fawkham, Hartley, and Ash, etc.

FORDCOMBE. ST. PETER.

I.—1. Ba., 1849—1910. 3. Bu., 1849—1910.
2. Ma., 1871—1910. 3 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1886—1910. Terrier. Inventory. Plan of Churchyard. Faculties, 1882, 1895.

FRINDSBURY. ALL SAINTS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1669—1735. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 6. |
| 2. Mx., 1735—1813. | „ | Ma., 11. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1793. | „ | Bu., 4. |
| 4. Ma., 1793—1812. | 25 Volumes. | |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1840—1910. Ov. Acc., 1784. V. M. Bk., 1831—1910.

FRINDSBURY UPNOR. ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1878—1910. Ba., 2. | 1878—1910. Bu., 1. |
| „ Ma., 1. | 4 Volumes. |

GILLINGHAM WITH UPBERRY. ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1650. | 8. Ma., 1805—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1649—1753. | 9. Ba., 1805—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1754—1783. | 10. Bu., 1800—1812. |
| 4. Mx., 1783—1800. | 1813—1910. Ba., 7. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1770. | „ Ma., 18. |
| 6. Ma., 1770—1790. | „ Bu., 3. |
| 7. Ma., 1791—1804. | 38 Volumes. |

Reg. 1, bound 1781.

1644—1660. Entries in curious German hand. From 1653—

1657 Marriages were signed by Henry Fowler, Peter Petts, Charles Bowles, as Justices of the Peace, described across the top of 4 pages By Just Asses." Latin 1623—1624 by James Deyer.

Churchyard closed 1859.

Three Registers of Chapel of Lidsing, pulled down: Ba., 1840—1874. Ma., 1840—1867. Bu., 1840—1875.

Reg. 1. First pages "Newly written and translated out of the olde registers in the tyme of Thomas Collett and William Short by John Mowbraye, Clark of the Church in April Ano 1598."

II.—Chw. Acc., 1848—1855; 1874—1887. Tithe Bk., 1720—1782.

Terrier, 1722—1725; 1726—1756. Inventory in Tithe Bk., 1848. Tithe Book of Lidsing Chapel, 1729—1775.

Extracts from Registers.

"William Adams son of John Adams, baptized ye foure and twentyth of September, 1564." This is the noted Will. Adams of Japanese Fame.

Register, 1649—1753. "The 21st February, 1699: being Wednesday. The bells of this parish were taken down in order to be new cast. They lay in the Church Porch till March the eleventh following, the eleventh of March 1699. They were carried to the Copperis house by William Smith his teame, and put on board Thomas Smith his hoy. He set saile for London Wednesday the thirteenth of March. They were weighed at London Friday the fifteenth. The five old bells weighed thirty-nine hundred a half and seventeen pounds." "The new bells were cast May the fifteenth 1700 by Philip Wightman, bell founder. He lives at the figure of the five bells on Windmill Hill, neere More-fields, London. The new bells were weighed May the twenty-fourth, 1700. They weighed forty foure hundred, three quarters and eight pounds." "There was added five hundred and eleven pounds of mettle to the new bells. They were brought from London to the Copperis house May the twenty-seventh. Brought to the Church the same day. The twenty-ninth they were pulled up into the steeple. They were hung on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday June the first: 1700. Thomas Simmons; Isaac Walker; Churchwardens. Will Harrison Vicar."

"The new tribble was filled with flit, Friday May 31, in William Smith's yard called the Court Lodge and there drunk out the same day."

Canon Robins has then given the dates, weights and inscriptions of the present peal of eight, from which it appears that the third was added in 1737 and the treble and second by subscription in 1811. He adds that the two last bells were intended for Chatham Church, and that Dr. Radcliffe rushed into a meeting, held at the Mitre Hotel, Chatham, to discuss the formal hanging, and said, "I've settled all that gentlemen. The bells are now in the tower of Gillingham Church. The money was collected for bells for the

Parish Church. That means Gillingham, for Chatham is only an ancient chapelry to Gillingham."

A long mem. dated Dec. 24, 1742, concerns a Pall bought by subscription for the use of the Poor, kept in the Vicarage in the charge of Widow Jenner, School-Mistress, who was to charge one shilling for its use by those not poor ; and two shillings in rainy weather ; and two shillings and sixpence to persons not living in the Parish. On her death she was to be succeeded by her successor in the school for ever. The entry was made to prevent further abuse of the Charity by Francis Pigot, Vicar.

In the iron chest there is a list of Ministers' and Clerks' fees, and numerous Indentures, Wills, Mortgages, Leases and Conveyances, from 1635—1750.

Also a volume in MSS., giving every tomb in the churchyard and every memorial in the church legible in 1862, made by Captain Conolly, R.N.

In the Mument Cupboard is a copy of "Foxe's Book of Martyrs," dated 1596.

There is a Terrier of the Churchyard, Glebe land and portion of Tithes belonging to the Vicar of Gillingham, dated 18th May, 1789, and stated to be "a true copy of the original Terrier in the record room at Lambeth house," dated "nono die Aprilis 1635." This is given in full by Canon Robins.

Extract from the Tithe Book, 1822—1825, runs : "A Gallery was erected over the former Western Gallery, for the reception of the children of the National Schools, who had been previously inconveniently placed in the Chancel. Their removal, together with the placing of the Rail and Steps nearer the altar, made room for the erection of 4 additional pews in the Chancel. The Skreen was lowered several feet and the Chancel window enlarged accordingly and beautified. A window was also opened between the two galleries into the Belfry. The windows were presented by the Vicar, the other improvements were made at the parish expense."

Benefactions.

1572. Catherine Bamme, 40/- per year.

1631. Thomas Randall, 40/- per year for clothes for 4 widows.

1641. William Short 40/- per year, "provided his heirs be not assessed to the poor for the salt called Dane Marsh."

1657. Heyward's Charity: fee farm rent, £4. 5. 4.

1670. William Roach: 40/- per year.

1723. Elizabeth Petty: two messnages to a Religious Society at Chatham to put children to School.

1733. Philip Tidd: a House, garden and orchard, proceeds to a widow to teach children to read and the Catechism.

1739. John Simmons: 10/- a year on St Thomas's Day to six widows.

1755. John Hoar: £4 a year to the poor of Gillingham and Chatham that should not take alms.

1858. John Stunt: £200 3 % Consols: for four agricultural labourers on January 6.

1872. Walter Stunt: £600 3 % Consols: for eight to twelve agricultural labourers on January 6.

GILLINGHAM. ST. BARNABAS.

I.—1890—1910. Ba., 4. 1890—1910. Ma., 2.
6 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1900—1910. Inventory.

GILLINGHAM. BROMPTON. HOLY TRINITY.

I.—1848—1910. Ba., 2. 1848—1910. Ma., 5.
7 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1896—1910. Pew Rent Books, 1869—1910, 3 vols.
V. M. Bk., 1896—1910. Inventory, 1847.

GILLINGHAM. NEW BROMPTON. ST. MARK.

I.—Ba., 1863—1910, 4 vols. Ma., 1866—1910, 3 vols.
7 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk. Inventory.

GILLINGHAM. ST. LUKE.

I.—1891—1910. Ba., 3. 1909—1910. Ma., 1.
4 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1891—1910. V. M. Bk., 1906—1910. Inventory.

GRAVESEND. ST. GEORGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1547—1729. | 6. Ma., 1786—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1727—1800. | 1813—1910. Ba., 7. |
| 3. Mx., 1800—1812. | „ Ma., 5. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1772. | „ Bu., 13. |
| 5. Ma., 1772—1786. | 31 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gap in Ma., Aug. 1663—April 1665.

Notice of the legal appointment of William Collyns as "Register" signed by "Ed. Pashlowe . Maior." This is followed by Births

1651—1660. In the middle, after burials to 1653, are entries of marriages, 1653—1663. All these are in the handwriting of Wm. Collyns. Two Latin eulogies of Thomasina Hughes, by her husband John Hughes, Rector, and of John Hughes by his son John Hughes of Jesus Coll. Cam. There are many interesting entries, e.g., Burial of Matako, daughter of the Powhattan, known as Princess Pocohontas and as La Belle Salvage, wife of Thomas Wroth (Rolle of Heacham, Norfolk), Secretary to the Colony of Virginia, on March 21, 1616—17; deaths by plague, violence or accident; reference to the great fire of 1727, in which St. George's Church was destroyed with the ancient deed chest.

A typed copy of the Registers to 1812 by T. Colyer-Fergusson, containing interesting entries, has been presented.

A cemetery was constituted in 1839, and up to 1855 burials in the Churchyard and Cemetery were entered in St. George's Books, as the Rector of Gravesend was Chaplain of the Cemetery. In 1855 the Churchyard was closed, and burials in the Cemetery were entered in St. George's books till 1906, though the Rector had ceased to be Chaplain *de jure* when the Cemetery Company failed and sold it to a private person. In 1906 the Corporation bought the Cemetery and opened it to all the Clergy.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1711—1838, 2 vols. Church Estate Book, 1860—1866. Ov. Acc., 1767—1866, incomplete, 6 vols. V. M. Bks., 1710—1879, incomplete, 18 vols. At the beginning of Vol. 1751—1758 are entries relating to charities, viz., White's, Varchell's, Pynnock's, Chapman's, Fry's and the St. Thomas's Houses, rest houses for Canterbury Pilgrims, now Alms-houses. Rate Books, 1735—1852, incomplete, 8 vols. Highway Books, 1769—1851, incomplete, 9 vols. A book called "Felgate's Last," 1818. Church Rates, 1726 and 1768. "Certificates" granted by Mayor and Corporation, 1697, 1750, 1782, 1788, 4 vols. Lists of "Poor Accidentals," perhaps Emigrants before embarkation, 1735—1762. "Examinations," perhaps as to residence, 1785—1791. Applications for Relief, 1823—1825. Five Parchment Deeds of Agreement, 1775, 1786, and 22 Geo. II., 20 Geo. III., 41 Geo. III. Service books, 1842—1910, incomplete, 5 vols.

GRAVESEND. ST. JAMES.

I.—1852—1910. Ba., 4. 1852—1910. Ma., 3.
7 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1897—1910. V. M. Bk., 1852—1910.

GRAYNE. ST. JAMES.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1653—1753. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1753—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |

10 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Only one entry in 1653 and one in 1659. Continuous from 1664.

Gap in Ma., 1746—1753.

Purchased in 1671. Entries before this date made up by J. Nairne, Vicar, 1669—1677, who signs each year.

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1845—94, and Ov. Acc., 1816—35, in one volume. | Highway Bk., 1844. | V. M. Bk., 1843—1910. |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|

HADLOW. ST. MARY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1752. | 5. Ma., 1804—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1752—1788. | 1813—1910. Ba., 7. |
| 3. Mx., 1788—1812. | " Ma., 4. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1804. | " Bu., 2. |

18 Volumes.

Reg. 1. "This book was written by James Bell in February, 1599."

1644—1660. Entries as usual.

Hadlow Bounds, 1800.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| II.—Ov. Acc., 1752. | V. M. Bk., 1815—1910. |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

HALLING. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1705—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1808. | " Bu., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 3. | 9 Volumes. |

Gap between Ma., 1808—1819.

There is an Ancient Deed Chest of oak.

| | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1838—1865. | Ov. Acc., 1817—1831. | V. M. Bk., 1853—1910, 2 vols. |
| Inventory. Records of May's and Dyer's Charities and Cobham College. | | |

HALSTEAD. ST. MARGARET.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | " Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 2. | 7 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gaps, Ba., 1587—1594; 1726—1734. Ma., 1606—1636; 1638—1648; 1718—1739. Bu., 1571—1647; 1724—1739.

1644—1660. Entries as usual by John Cottingham, Rector 1645—1664.

The Marriage Registers, 1561—1837, have been printed by Phillimore.

All the Registers have been copied in a book in the Vestry.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1721—1839, 2 vols. Ov. Acc., 1767—1833, 6 vols.

V. M. Bks., 1831—1910, 3 vols. Briefs in Reg. 1. Terrier, 1634, 1800, copied in Reg. 1. Closure of Churchyard, 1856. Room in Parsonage licensed by Archbishop, 1842.

HALSTOW, HIGH. ST. MARGARET.

I.—1. Mx., 1653—1735. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.

2. Mx., 1735—1812. " Ma., 2.

3. Ma., 1754—1812. " Bu., 1.

8 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Much damaged by damp and eaten by silver fish.

1653—1660. Notices of births and deaths, intentions to marry and marriages solemnized.

II.—Briefs in Reg. 1, 1664—1703. V. M. Bk., 1836—1910, 2 vols. Terrier.

HARTLEY. ALL SAINTS.

I.—1. Mx., 1713—1814. 1813—1910. Ma., 2.

2. Ma., 1758—1812. " Bu., 1.

1813—1910. Ba., 1. 6 Volumes.

Reg. 1 and 2 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson. A few notes of Collections; Coats and Gowns Charity and re-shingling Church Steeple.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1747—1902. V. M. Bk., 1857—1910. Records of Coats and Gowns Charity.

HAYES. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

I.—1. Mx., 1539—1741. 1813—1910. Ba., 3.

2. Mx., 1731—1777. " Ma., 2.

3. Mx., 1777—1812. " Bu., 2.

4. Ma., 1755—1810. 11 Volumes.

Reg. 2. Gap in Bu., 1762—1772. 1644—1660, entries as usual; one marriage by Justice Skinner; Thos. Payne, "Register," 1656.

Baptism of William Pitt the younger, born May 28 and baptized July 3, 1759, son of the Rt. Honble Wm. and Lady Pitt.

There is a Deed Chest, banded iron, of the eighteenth century or earlier.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1690—1844, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., 1718—1737. V. Minutes in Chw. Acc. Terrier about 1780. Inventory 1892.

Five small Quarto vols.: 1. Surplice Fees and Tithes, etc., 1797—1850; 2. Briefs, Confirmations and Sacrament Money, 1798—1831; 3. Sacrament Money, Confirmations, etc., 1831—1853; 4. Surplice Fees, Tithes, etc., 1777—1796; 5. Sacrament Money, Briefs, etc., 1777—1798. All these begun by John Till, Rector 1777.

MS. History of the Parish, compiled by Mr. Charles Kadwell (born at Hayes 1786, died at Greenwich 1874), presented in 1879 by Lord Sackville Arthur Cecil.

Tithe Lease, 1750. Deed of Exchange, 1760. Q. A. B. Mortgage, 1835 and 1887. Faculty, 1904. Papers of alterations in Rectory, 1757. Answers to Visitation Questions, 1788, 1801. Correspondence about Ch. Clock, 1832. Rector of Orpington, patron, 1788; and Hasted and Lysons about history of Hayes.

The Visitation Queries, 1788, give 58 houses; no Papists or dissenters; one family of Quakers "remarkable for their peaceableness, industry and good behaviour." Some twenty inhabitants absented themselves from Church "not from any bad motives but from want of good ones." Two services on Sunday with sermons; on Ash Wednesday morning and morning and evening on Good Friday and Christmas. Weekly prayers attempted during Lent, but failed because "the inhabitants consisting chiefly of labouring poor could not attend." Children catechized in private, not in Church. Sacrament four times a year; Communicants seldom exceeded 20 in summer and less in winter.

HEVER. ST. PETER.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1632—1778. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1779—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1757—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |

9 Volumes.

After 1654 Marriages attested by "Esquires." Banns revived in 1663.

There is an old oak chest.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1646—1723; 1724—1786; 1749—1750; 1836—1855. Ov. Acc., 1797—1836, 3 vols. Par. Acc., 1603—1608; 1787—1797; 1804—1815; 1815—1828. Rate Books, 1810—1833, 2 vols. Surveyors' Acc., 1767—1836, 3 vols. Highways, 1812—1833. Petition Book, 1800—1837, 3 vols. Parish Bills, 1800—1803. County Rate, 1844. Constables'

List, 1846—1866. Sundry Rate Books, Warrants, Assessments and other documents. Terrier, undated, of Ryder's Charity and Alms Houses. Terrier of Ch. lands, 1733, 1885. Inventory, 1895. Bounds Book, 1805—1863. Certain Charities.

EVER. FOUR ELMS. ST. PAUL.

I.—1881—1910. Ba., 1. 1882—1910. Ma., 1.
2 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk. Inventory. Ordnance Map. Conveyance of Site of Village Hall and Chancel.

HIGHAM. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1653—1744. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1744—1812. | ” Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1793. | ” Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1797—1812. | 11 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gaps, Ba., 1724—1728; Ma., 1709—1714.

An almost illegible list of incumbents in Latin from 1653. The Parchment binding inside, illegible, is a deed referring to Thomas Stanley and begins, "Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England."

Reg. 2. Gap, 1757—1760.

1653—1788, copied by J. Wood, D.D., Vicar.

There is an oak chest, barrel lid, no lock, broken hinges.

II.—Chw. Acc., 4 vols. Vestry Book, 1740—1857, contains 37 Briefs, 1740—1857. Inventory, 1909. Will of Rolffe's Charity, 1485, and Map, and two Indentures of Enfeoffment about 1840. A parchment Ordinance, illegible, probably some Letters Patent.

HIGHAM. ST. JOHN THE DIVINE.

I.—1864—1910. Ba., 2. 1890—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. Terrier. Inventory.

HOO, ALL HALLOWS. ALL SAINTS.

- I.—1. Mx., 1629—1672. 5. Bu., 1796—1910.
 2. Mx., 1679—1795. 6. Ba., 1891—1910.
 3. Ma., 1754—1810. 7. Ma., 1813—1910, 2 vols.
 4. Ba., 1795—1890. 8 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Gap, Bu., 1636—1665.

Reg. 1 and 2. Gap between, 1673—1679.

Reg. 4 and 5. Loose parchment leaves inserted from an older book.

An Inventory dated 1615 refers to early register lost. "Item a Register book of Parchment." Chw. Acc., 1573, have "wrytyng of the register book."

1644—1660. Entries as usual by Hugh Whiting, Vicar, 1638—1659, or by the "Register," whose appointment is noted 1653 and 1656 in Reg. 1. Marriages, 1653—1656, by Robert Watson, Esq., of Frindsbury, J.P.

Copied to 1837 by Leland Duncan and Rev. F. J. Hammond.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1555—1649, foolscap paper, transcribed by Leland Duncan and Rev. F. J. Hammond; 1829—1910, 2 vols. Ov. Acc., 1601—1759; 1793—1807; 1827—1836. Surveyors' Acc., 1789—1826, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1849—1910. Inventory in Chw. Acc., 1615.

HOO, ST. MARY'S. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

- I.—1. Mx., 1695—1812. 1813—1910. Ma., 1.
 2. Ma., 1754—1812. " Bu., 1.
 1813—1910. Ba., 1. 5 Volumes.
- Reg. 1. Gaps, Ba., 1724; 1726—1728; 1778—1783. Ma., 1725—1736; 1737—1742. Bu., 1778—1786.

Note at beginning of Reg. of a paper book dating from 1 Eliz. :—

"The Rector, R. Burt, who married George IV. to Mrs. Fitz-herbert, died lamented by all who knew him."

- II.—Chw. Acc., loose papers. Ov. Acc., 1740—1760. V. M. Bk., 1853—1894. Accounts of two Charities, 1685, 1875. Records of Lawsuit in eighteenth century to recover charity, 1685, alienated for 20 years.

HOO, ST. WERBURGH. ST. WERBURGH.

- I.—1. Mx., 1587—1599. 5. Ma., 1810—1812.
 2. Mx., 1640—1760. 1813—1910. Ba., 3.
 3. Mx., 1761—1812. " Ma., 2.
 4. Ma., 1753—1810. " Bu., 2.

12 Volumes.

Reg. 1 and 2. Gap between, 1599—1640.

There is a small Memorandum Book of mixed entries, 1695—1717.

Reg. 2. Latin, 1662—1711. A note of the bounds of the Parish, 1676.

There is a bound index summary, 1640—1860, by Vicar Warner.

II.—Highway Acc., 1841—1846; 1855—1856, 3 vols. A few Brief receipts, 1706—1713, stuck in Reg. 2. V. M. Bk., 1846—1910, 2 vols. Faculty, 1872.

HORSMONDEN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1733. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1733—1812. | „ | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 3. |

12 Volumes.

Reg. 2. Entry relating to the ejection of Dr. Jeffrey Amherst and subsequently of Rev. John Couch, with the intrusion of presbyterian Edward Rawson, who was afterwards ejected in favour of Mr. Couch at the Restoration, made by William Liptrott, Curate 1773—1791.

1644—1660. Births and Burials; Marriages “In the Presence of divers creditable Witnesses” after bauns in the Parish Church; six by Thomas Baker, Register chosen by the Parishioners according to Act of Parliament, Nov. 30, 1653.

II.—Par. Acc., 1734—1770. Ch. Tax Book, 1772—1811. Surveyors’ Acc., 1795—1823. Surveyors’ Bk., 1810—1837, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1801—1824. Request for Relief, 1823, etc., 9 vols. Flour Acc., 1829, 2 vols. Jail Rate, 1815. Poor Book, 1701—1829, 4 vols. Ov. Bk., 1811—1821. Bundles of Forms of Prayer, Letters, Bills, etc.

HORTON KIRBY. ST. MARY.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Bu., 1678—1810. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1684—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 2. |

11 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Gap., Bu., 1811—1812.

“Ann Collyns ye servant of Thomas Miller yeoman had a certificate Ap. 9 1688 under ye Minister and Churchwardens hands Francis Justice & John Chester in order to her being touched by his Majestie for ye K’gs Evill, Hen. Berrow.” “This mayd went up to London but returned without being touchd by his Majestie, the chirurgeons affirming it was not the disease commonly called ye K’gs Evill. Henry Berrow.”

II.—Chw. Acc., 1685—1715; 1716—1742; 1815—1907; 1907—1911. Ov. Acc., 1685—1715. V. M. Bk., 1816—1910, 2 vols. Inventory. Workhouse Poor Book, 1810—1836 (Union of South Fleet and Horton Parishes). Par. Charities, 1881—1910.

HUNTON. ST. MARY.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1611—1707. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1707—1743. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1744—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1811. | 11 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. One entry in 1585.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk. Inventory.

IDE HILL. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—Ba., 1852—1910. 2. | Bu., 1853—1910. 1. |
| Ma., 1853—1910. 2. | 5 Volumes. |

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk. Inventory. Faculty. Conveyance of site of School, Church and Parsonage.

IGHTHAM. ST. PETER.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1671. | 5. Ma., 1792—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1654—1804. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Mx., 1804—1812. | " Ma., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1791. | " Bu., 3. |
| 15 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Gap, 1654—1662, entered in Reg. 2.

Reg. 2. Gap, Ba., 1705—1724; 1784—1790. Ma., 1705—1724. Bu., 1705—1710, and 1784—1790.

1644—1660. Marriage before "Register" and Justice of the Peace. Copied, 1559—1812, by T. Colyer-Fergusson. Entries relating to families of Selby, Sedley and James. Census 1811.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1656—1910, incomplete, 8 vols. Ov. Acc., 1708—1804, incomplete, 8 vols. Mem. Bk., 1814—1857, and 1764—1910. V. M. Bk., 1806—1835.

Charities.—1. James's, 1627, £2 per annum in bread. 2. Petley's, 1704, £5 4s. for loaves weekly. 3. Firebrace's, £1 per ann. for bread. 4. Eliz. James's, 1720, £6 per ann. for Divinity Prizes. 5. Selby's, 1841, £150 interest for the poor. 6. Peyrse's, 1546, 6s. 8d. per ann. in 2^d on Friday before Mid Lent. Additional churchyard, 1868.

KEMSING. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1735. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1735—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 1. |
| 8 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1. 1644—1660; nearly all Ba. Gap, Ma., 1640—1654; Bu., 1646—1654.

Latin, 1610—1616.

There is an ancient Deed Chest, seventeenth century.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1762—1910, 2 vols. | Ov. Acc., 1800—1824; 1848 |
| —1868. | Valuation List, 1891. V. M. Bk., 1859—1910. |

KESTON. UNKNOWN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1540—1685. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1683—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1810. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 10 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1. Gaps, Ba., 1611—22; Bu., 1621—27; Ma., 1683—89; Bu., 1689—90. Gap. in Ma., 1811—17.

1644—60. Entries as usual by Rectors: Tho. Pike, 1627—57; Robert Low, 1658—60; Edward Smith, 1660—78. The entry of the burial of Robert Low was originally "January 1659. Robert Low Rector of Keston buryed," but a later hand has interpolated "pretended" before "Rector," and "N.B. One of Cromwell's Parsons."

Reg. 2 contains Collations to the Rectory, 1545—1800; the Clerk's wages; copy of lease to Rector of Keston, 1602, of a cottage on the heath; various affidavits of burials taken from the Register, 1738, probably for burials in woollen. Some of these are carefully mounted in Highways Books, vol. 2.

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|--|--|
| II.—Ov. Acc., 1709—1794, 2 vols. | V. M. Bk., 1795—1910, 2 vols. |
| Ch. Rate Bk., 1863—1894. | Highways, 1805—1829, 3 vols. |
| Parish Apprentice Reg., 1807. | Rural Dean's Visitation Bk., |
| 1895. In one vol.: 1, Bond of Ed. Cross to Churchwardens, 1822, for enclosure of waste land; 2, Standard Wheat Bread, 1825; 3, Burials Acts to 1900. | 1895. In one vol.: 1, Bond of Ed. Cross to Churchwardens, 1822, for enclosure of waste land; 2, Standard Wheat Bread, 1825; 3, Burials Acts to 1900. |

KINGSDOWN CUM MAPPISCOMBE. ST. EDMUND THE KING.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1725—1808. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1809—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 1. |
| 8 Volumes. | | |

An entry opposite the burial of William Phillips, 1814: "Clerk

of the Parish 19 years. A respectable man & an excellent reader. The man who burnt the old Parish Registers." Copied, 1725—1812, by T. Colyer-Fergusson, who presented a copy.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1863—1910. Extract from MSS. Church Goods:

Kent $\frac{3}{13}$ to $\frac{3}{45}$ in the Record Office, *i.e.*, 6 Ed. VI., 1552.

KNOCKHOLT. ST. KATHARINE.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1548—1730. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1727—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1797. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1798—1812. | 10 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. 1644—1660. Many more marriages than before or after, viz.: 1644—50, 22; 1651, 9; 1652, 17; 1653, 22; 1654—7, 4 in all; 1658, 8; 1659, 11; 1660, 8; 1661—7, 12 in all.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1715—1733; 1783—1805. Ov. Acc., various, 1671—1817, incomplete, 4 vols. V. M. Bk., 1694—1817; 1817—1830 and 1875—1910, in same book. Inventory.

LAMBERHURST. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1563—1715. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1715—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1787. | " | Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1787—1812. | 14 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Many gaps. Ma., 1587—1595; 1638—1648. 1644—1660. Only Banns and intentions to marry, by Richard Weller, "Register" and Churchwarden. Latin 1623—1644. Marriage Registers printed by Phillimore. All to 1840 transcribed by Vicar.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1741—1793, 2 vols. Ov. Acc., 1640—1676, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1745—1840, 2 vols. and current vol.

LAMORBEY. HOLY TRINITY.

I.—1. Ba., 1840—1910. 2. M., 1878—1910.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bks., 1840—1910, 6 vols. Inventory, 1910. Declaration of Mr. John Malcolm to build and endow a Chapel, 1839. Trust Deed of Endowment, 1840. Deed of Patronage, 1840. Deed assigning District, 1840. Deed authorizing Bauns, 1878. Surrender of fees by Vicar of

Bexley, 1887. Conveyance of Site of Church to Ecclesiastical Commissioners, 1880. Petition of Consecration, 1880. Sentence of Consecration, 1880. Faculty to pull down Chapel, 1880. Instrument substituting Church for Chapel, 1880. Conveyance of School site, 1881. Faculty to add to Church, 1907. Conveyance of site of Mission Room, 1909.

LANGTON GREEN. ALL SAINTS.

I.—1. Ba., 1863—1910. 2. Ma., 1881—1910.
2 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1863—1910. Inventory.

LEIGH. ST. MARY.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1639—1653. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1662—1740. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1740—1812. | „ | Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 13 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Sheets mounted in Modern book.

1644—1653. Entries as usual by Robert Antrobus. Gap between 1653—1662.

There is an oak chest, undated, 3 locks.

II.—Ov. Acc., 1640—1701, 2 vols. Inventory, modern. Charity based on Wills, 1602, 1662, and 1713, and Decls, 1620, 1622, and 1675, administered by Charity Commissioners' Scheme, 1901. Wills and Deeds with Parish Council.

LEYBOURNE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 1. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1800. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1801—1812. | „ | Bu., 1. |
| | 7 Volumes. | |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1706—1910. V. M. Bk., 1852—1910, 3 vols.

LONGFIELD. ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1757—1811. | „ | Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 2. | 7 Volumes. | |

Reg 1. Illegible owing to wet entering safe during Church Restoration, but copy made by Rev. P. H. Jennings and by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

1644—1660. Ba. and Bu. as usual, but increase in Ma.

Gap in Ma., 1670—1703. Latin words in places.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1868—1910. Land Tax Redemption.

LUDDESDOWN. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1681—1813. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Ba., 1686—1725. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1766—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |

8 Volumes.

Reg. 1 contains Baptisms only, much dilapidated; all entries before 1681 cut out. In 1681 Stephen Thornton, Rector, filled up remaining folios with Baptisms and then transcribed them into Reg. 2.

1807. Enlargement of Parsonage Garden and right of way granted through shaw to Church; Dr. Thomson, Rector, 1851. Church reseated and Chancel floor raised; E. J. Shepherd, Rector. Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1730—1827; 1855—1910. Ov. Acc., 1794—1840, 3 vols. V. M. Bk., 1851—1910. Map of Luddesdown Manor. Deed of Higgins's Charity. Faculty to rebuild the Church, 1866. Mem. Book by Archdeacon King. [MS. 180, Thorpe Collection, Society of Antiquaries, "Luddesdowne Registr. incipiunt A° 1562." This MS. 180 appears to be extracts, 1562—1663. Reg. 1 and 2 contain Briefs.—Miss Wigan.]

ULLINGSTONE. ST. BOTOLPH.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1578—1769. | 1813—1911. | Ma., 1. |
| 2. Mx., 1760—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 1813—1911. Ba., 1. | | 5 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Gap, Ba., 1739—1760.

Reg. 2. Gap, Bu., 1769—1774.

1644—1660. Two Ba., 2 Ma., 4 Bu. Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Nil return.

MALLING, EAST. ST. JAMES. (Originally Visitation of
B. V. Mary.)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1570—1620. | 5. Ma., 1754—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1619—1640. | 1813—1910. Ba., 5. |
| 3. Mx., 1640—1755. | “ Ma., 4. |
| 4. Mx., 1756—1812. | “ Bu., 3. |
| | 17 Volumes. |

Reg. 1, perhaps begun by John Wheler, Vicar 1571.

Reg. 3. Gap, Bu., 1683—1699.

1644—1660. Entries scanty. Only 25 marriages; in nine years no entry of Ma. Between 1641—1653 Baptisms averaged five and Burials seven. 1647—48 and 1649—50 blank portions of two pages cut off; between 1650—51 three leaves cut out. No entry in 1659. All made by Robert Whittle, Vicar 1627—1679. No evidence of "Register." In a later hand "1647. Born at the Parish of Goudhurst was Abraham Walter the son of John Walter the ii day of August."

1780. Census by Daniel Hill, Vicar. Houses, 175; inhabitants, 953.

1811. Census by Samuel Godmond, Vicar. Houses, 217; inhabitants, 1256.

There is a plain oak chest, 3 key-holes, not very old.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1752—1910, 7 vols., of Parish Church; 1887—1910, of Holy Trinity Church. Ov. Acc., 1727—1837, 11 vols. Highway Books, 1773—1859, 13 vols. Rate Books, 1836—1879, 15 vols. Valuation, 1820. A bundle of Certificates acknowledging Parishioners. Briefs mentioned in Chw. Acc. V. M. Bk., 1818—1910, 5 vols. Terrier and Inventory, 1896, 2 vols. Tithe Map, 1842. Plans of Vicarage and Church Restoration. Charities: Papers of Burnett's, 1577, lost; Turner's, 1655, lost; Brett's, 1620; Twisden's, 1702; Tomlyn's, 1752; Goff's, 1901. Consecration of Holy Trinity Church, 1854, and additional churchyard, 1898. Lease of Tithes, 1817. Q. A. B. Mortgage, 1859. Revival of Sunday School, 1836. Abolition of Fair, 1881. Valuation of Glebe, 1881. Table of Fees, 1881. Parsonage House, 1883. Recovery of Chalice and Paten, 1910. Confirmation Register, 1876—1910. Service Books, 1869—1876; 1897—1910. Par. Magazine, 1872—1910. Log Book, 1872—1910. Letters *re* Chancel Pews and window, 1897—1909. Tithe Award, 1842. Nine alt. apportionments. Three Redemption Certificates. Extraordinary Tithe, 1886. One alt. apportionment. Two Redemption Certificates.

MALLING, WEST. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1698—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma., 3. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 3. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 4. | | 12 Volumes. |

All previous to 1698 have disappeared.

"There happened a terrible and great tempest of thunder and lightning and sett afire the Spire of the Church broke down through the roofe and cieling of the Body of the Church and through the Belfry doore broke down the pendulum of the clock melted the bottom of the pendulum went through the head of the Chaunsell and did a great deal of damage especially to the Spire on Monday morning about six o'clock the 17 Day of November 1712."

"There was a Confirmation in this Parish Church of St. Mary of West Malling on Fryday November 7, 1712, the Bishop of Kilaloe and the Archdeacon being present. There were between two or three thousand people confirmed."

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1701—1786; 1784—1869. V. M. Bk., 1851—1910, 2 vols. Terrier, modern. Inventory in Reg. 6. Papers *re* Charity of Sir R. Brett; his will. Deeds, 1729, 1785, 1785, 1815, 1815. Minutes and accounts, 1785. Accounts, modern. Papers *re* Charities of Bates, Bell, Luck, Brett, Tresse, Tomlin, Thorp, Worley. School Trust Deeds, 1854, 1857. Churchyard Agreement between Vicar and Churchwardens and Apps and Hodges. Vicarage Agreement between Vicar and Kent Nursing Institution. Faculties, 1866, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1909. Par. Mag., 1884—1909, 3 vols. Par. Year Book, 1895—1908. Churchyard Extension, 1898. Preachers' Book, 1893—1910, 3 vols. Rural Dean's Book. Tithe apportionments.

Papers in old oak chest in Vestry: Certificates, 1773; Poor Rate, 1778; Pensions, 1801; Census, 1801; Par. Acc., 1806—1831, 4 vols.; Surveyors' Acc., 1806; Valuation, 1817; Highways, 1825—1846, 8 vols.; Report of Night Watchmen, 1822; many papers of County and Gaol Rates, Beadles' Bills, Bishops' and Archdeacons' Dues, Church Expenses, Insurances, Parish Church and Gallery Bonds, Tithes, Annuities, Rents, Guardians Voting and Appointments, Bills, Settlement, Apprentices, and Soldiers.

MARK BEECH. HOLY TRINITY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1853—1910. Ba., 1. | 1853—1910. Bu., 1. |
| ," | Ma., 1. 3 Volumes. |

II.—V. M. Bk., 1853—1910. Inventory. Plan of district.

MARESTONE. ST. GILES.

Sinceeure Rector. Even the ruins of the Church have gone.
No Records.

MEOPHAM. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1743. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1728—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1795. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1796—1812. | 11 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1 has a note that the "Ancient Register was stolēn out of the Church with Divers other books Año Dm. 1569," and begins "a true Register of all Marriages Christenings and Burials from the 6th Day of April 1595 with the names of all such as are to be found registered from the year 1570 unto said year 1595." Yet the first entry is a Baptism in 1561. Another note states that during the Vicariate of Mr. Jeames Day (carried off by the plague) for five years space no marriages were registered, viz., from 1586—1591, and no baptisms between 1563 and 1568. Between Reg. 1 and 2 there is a gap in Bu., 1679—1743.

1644—1660. Ba. and Bu. as before, but only one Ma., 1653—1659. Entries to 1645 by Thomas Pigott, Vicar; from 1646 by Mr. Wm. Gibson, Minister. John Tradescant, Junr., baptized 1608. He and his father were gardeners in the service of Charles I. Among Ba., 1628, is a copy of a will of Robert Sprever of Cobham, 1604, in which he bequeathed 13*s.* 4*d.* to the poor for 50 years. In 1667 "Mr Dalmahoy Quartermaster to my Lord Middleton's troop of hors died in ye Vicaridge hous of Mepā Aug. ye 23 & was buried at Cobam." In 1698 and 1700 declaration that "I gave the collectors a list—refer to the Tax on entries in Register from 1694 to raise money for the French war," and a note that "Baptisms since 1 Oct. 1783, a licence being given for making the entries without the stamp being marked thereon on security being given for the payment of 3*d.* for each baptism."

Reg. to 1812 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1739—1843, 2 vols. Ov. Acc., 1752—1827, 9 vols. Some loose papers, 1848—50, of payments to Constables. V. M. Bk., 1788—1812; 1831—1910, 4 vols. Map. 1842. Lambarde records that in 1570 he saw and copied at Meopham the will of Byrhtie and Elfswith his wife in 950, giving to the poor two bequests each of 60 mancuses of gold. This will has gone.

Bequests of James Taylor, 1662; Judith Markland, 1665; Jane F. Barnett, 1890. Grant of waste land, 1833. Conveyance of School site, 1841. Faculties, 1859, 1874. Conveyance of site of Culvestone Church and School, 1872, and licence 1873. Certificates acknowledging Parishioners from 1700.

MEREWORTH. ST. LAWRENCE.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1703. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1701—1800. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1800—1812. | " | Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 13 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Bu., 1674—1703, are on loose sheets of parchment.
 Ba., Ma., Bu., 1701—3, are copied from Reg. 1 in Reg. 2.
 1644—1660 as usual; births entered irregularly.
 There is a Deed Chest, iron clasped, in poor state.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|
| II.—Ov. Acc., 1746, 1902, 1802—30. | Briefs in Reg., 1660. | V. M. |
| Bks., 1832—1910, 3 vols. | List of persons receiving Charity, | |
| 1833—73. | Coal Club, 1843—73. | |
| Choir Children, 1835— | | |
| 74. | S. S. Prizes and treats, 1835—57. | |
| Terrier, 1902. | Inventory in Reg. 3, 1886 and 1902. | |
| Tithe Map and Map of | | |
| Rectory and Glebe. | Conveyance of site of Rectory, 1778. | |
| Exchange of Glebe, 1883. | Charities of Baroness De Spencer, | |
| 1625; | Grant of site for Schools, 1855. | |
| Sugden, 1894. | Lease of Schools to School Board, 1876. | |

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1739. | 5. Ma., 1796—1812. | |
| 2. Mx., 1739—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 3. Ma., 1753—1775. | " | Ma., 9. |
| 4. Ma., 1775—1796. | " | Bu., 4. |
| 22 Volumes. | | |

1644—1660. Entries correct and orderly. Latin entries in early Reg. of Squires and Rector's family. Latin poem with English translation on the death of Mrs. Swone, wife of the Rector, 1606.

II.—No particulars given.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND. CHRIST CHURCH.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------|
| I.—1857—1910. | Ba., 3. | 1857—1910. | Ma., 4. |
| 7 Volumes. | | | |

II.—V. M. Bk., 1857—1910.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND. HOLY TRINITY.

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|
| I.—1845—1910. | Ba., 10. | 1845—1910. | Ma., 3. |
| 13 Volumes. | | | |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1897—1910. V. M. Bk.

NETTLESTEAD. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1640—1770. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Ba., 1775—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Bu., 1774—1812. | 10 Volumes. | |

Gap between Reg. 1 and 2.

1644—1660. No Ma.; very few Bu. There are Family Records of the de Pympes. Some of them built the Church and occupied a magnificent mansion close by, of which considerable remains still exist, turned into an oast house, with a beautiful crypt. There lives in Nettlestead the representative of a yeoman's family dating back to 1360. There is a description of a storm in Aug. 1763, which shattered the stained-glass South windows.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| II.—Chw. Acc., 1710—1910, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1866—1910. | | |
| Visitation Bk., presented by Archdeacon King, 1841. Terrier in Reg. 1, about 1640, and 1724 and 1806. Tithe Map, 1843. Maps in Glebe leases. Inventory in Visitation Bk. A Book of Homilies, black letter, 1683. | | |

NORTHFLEET. ST. BOTOLPH.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1539—1653. | 6. Ma., 1761—1795. | |
| 2. Mx., 1680—1704. | 7. Ma., 1796—1812. | |
| 3. Mx., 1704—1748. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 9. |
| 4. Mx., 1749—1812. | „ | Ma., 8. |
| 5. Ma., 1754—1761. | „ | Bu., 5. |

29 Volumes.

Gap between Reg. 1 and 2. Ba., Bu., 1653—1680; Ma., 1648—1680. Gap in Ma., 1749—1754.

Reg. 5 is not the usual Hardwicke Reg.; the Act is pasted at the beginning, but there is no printed form.

1644—1653 as usual, but see above. Latin entries of change of Sovereign, *e.g.*, "17^o Novembris obiit Regina Maria et hic incipit regnare Elizabeth, R. A. Serenissima quæ restituit Evangelium et preces in Anglico Sermone quas Maria Extirpavit."

There is a Deed Chest, 4ft. 5in. by 1ft. 9in., curved lid, hasps and staples, six handles.

Reg. 1—7 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

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| II.—Chw. Acc. in V. M. Bk. from 1819. Offertory Books, 1866—1910, 2 vols. Ov. Acc. from 1858. Charities of Kirwan, Unknown, Wood, Southgate, Siddous. |
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NORTHFLEET, PERRY STREET. ALL SAINTS.

I.—1871—1910. Ba., 2. 1871—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk.

NORTHFLEET, ROSHERVILLE. ST. MARK.

I.—1853—1910. Ba., 2. 1853—1910. Ma., 2.
4 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1867—1906, 4 vols. V. M. Bk., 1854—1910,
2 vols. Inventory, 1904. Archdeacon's Visitation Book.
A book of division of two Northfleet Parishes, giving this
parish $\frac{5}{6}$ ths.

NURSTEAD, ST. MILDRED WITH IFIELD, ST. MARGARET.

I.—1. Mx., 1561—1736. 1813—1910. Ma., 2.
2. Mx., 1736—1812. " Bu., 1.
1813—1910. Ba., 1. " 6 Volumes.

Reg. 2 contains Ma., 1736—1812, so there is no Hardwicke Register.

Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1850. Ov. Acc. since formation of Parish Councils. V. M. Bk. Terrier. Inventory. Purchase of Glebe by Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Q. A. B. and sale to General Edmeades.

Ifield.

I.—1. Mx., 1751—1812. 1813—1910. Ma., 2.
1813—1910. Ba., 1. " Bu. 1.
5 Volumes.

Reg. 1 contains Ma., 1754—1812, so there is no Hardwicke Register.

Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. and Ov. Acc. V. M. Bk. Terrier. Inventory. Enlargement of Churchyard.

OFFHAM. ST. MICHAEL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1742. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1735—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 8 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1 is Transcript to 1633.

Reg. 3 is not the Hardwicke Reg., but a small paper book.

1644—1660. Ba. and Bu. continue but not in regular order; some entries appear to be later insertions. Gap. in Ma., 1651—1661.

At end of Reg. 1: "These are to certifie that I did approve of the choice of Andrew Dunning to be Register for the Parish of Offham, he having taken his corporall oath before me this 27 Day of June 1657. George Duke." Memo. about a procession round the Boundaries on Ascension Day, 1661.

II.—Ov. Acc., 1721—1812, 2 vols. Rate Bk., 1835—1847. Briefs in Reg. 1, 1672—1695. V. M. Bk., 1883—1910. Archdeacons' Visitation Bk., 1841—1910.

ORPINGTON. ALL SAINTS.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1678. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 5. |
| 2. Mx., 1671—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1784. | " | Bu., 4. |
| 4. Ma., 1784—1812. | 16 Volumes. | |
| 1644—60. Very defective. | | |

Reg. 1 and 2 to 1754 printed in 1895 by Messrs. H. C. Kirby and Leland Duncan.

II.—Church Rate Bk., 1848—71. Ov. Acc., 1780—1837. Highways, 1816—1821. V. M. Bk., 1755—1910, 3 vols. Tithe Map.

OTFORD. ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1630—1812. | 1813—1910. | Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1755—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 4. | 10 Volumes. | |

1644—1660. Ordinary. Beating the Bounds, May 4, 1678.
Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1818—1880, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1825—1910, 3 vols. Inventory, 1904.

PADDOCK WOOD. ST. ANDREW.

- I.—1860—1910. Ba., 1. 1860—1910. Bu., 1.
" Ma., 1. 3 Volumes.
II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., current.
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PECKHAM, EAST. ST. MICHAEL.

- I.—1. Mx., 1558—1653. 6. Ma., 1796—1812.
2. Mx., 1653—1796. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.
3. Bu., 1678—1797. " Ma., 2.
4. Mx., 1797—1812. " Bu., 2.
5. Ma., 1754—1796. 12 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Loose leaves, newly bound.

Reg. 2. No order at all.

1644—1660, as usual. Gap 1660—1662. 1654, "I W^m Polhill Vicar began this Register. I have continued it exactly for Christenings Burials & Marriages to ye^e best of my remembrance." 1637, "Communion Table" railed by order. 1638, Pulpit given by Sir Thos. Twysden. 1638—40, Certain parishioners permitted to eat flesh in Lent. 1646, The Minister of Brenchley having refused to baptize, according to direction, certain children over one year old the Minister of East Peckham was requested to perform the office at East Peckham. 1678—1747, Burials certified by Magistrates, after the signature in some cases of the Curate. No Magistrates' seals after 1717. 1822, No relief to persons that keep dogs. 1826, £2 12s. 6d. for a Bassoon. 1827, Psalm Singers, £2 8s. 8d. 1854, Blue laced coat, £3 7s. 6d.; this still worn by the Verger.

There is an old chest.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1792—1801; 1819—1857. Ov. Acc., 1796—1848, 8 vols. Briefs in Reg., 17 pages; 1690, for Irish Protestants, £2 14s. 6d.; 1694, for French Protestants, 17s. V. M. Bk., 1816—1822; 1863—1910. Terrier. Inventory.
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PECKHAM, EAST. HOLY TRINITY.

- I.—1843—1910. Ba., 3. 1843—1910. Bu., 3.
" Ma., 3. 9 Volumes.

- II.—V. M. Bk., 1864—1910. Inventory, 1897. Map, 1865.
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PECKHAM, WEST. ST. DUNSTAN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1561—1751. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1752—1812. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 9 Volumes. | | |

Gaps, 1565—1567; 1587—1590. 1644—1660; irregular in several hands till 1666; a few births probably entered by Registrar. Gap in Ma., 1658—1667.

Copied by present Vicar to 1630. Note of Induction of James Clarke witnessed by Churchwardens 1635-6. Gift of "nobilem tapetem ex serico pro mensa Dominica et tapetem ex serico pro pulpito" by Sir H. Miller of Oxenoth in 1688; also of "nobilem lagenam cum petilla" by the same in 1699. Gift of additional churchyard by Mr. F. Geary, 1877. Autographs of five Vicars in Reg. 1. Punishment of a "waif person," Richard Clements, 1603.

There is an ancient oak chest.

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| II.—Chw. Acc., 1709—1910, 2 vols. | Ov. Acc., 1762—1848, 4 vols. |
| Surveyors' Bks., 1778—1831, 2 vols. | V. M. Bk., 1841—1910, 3 vols. Deed of Dame Chowne's Charity. Brass plate of Dunmoll Charity, 1706. |

PEMBURY. ST. PETER.

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1560—1654. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1654—1747. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1747—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Bu., 1737—1812. | | 11 Volumes. |
| Gap. in Ma., 1754—1813, <i>i.e.</i> , Hardwicke Register lost. | | |

May 1668. Died of "ye sickness," Benge and his wife and two daughters, John Sisby and his wife of Yalden, buried in the back-sides.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc., modern. | Briefs in Reg. |
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PENGE. CHRIST CHURCH.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------|
| I.—1885—1910. | Ba., 2. | 1886—1910. | Ma., 2. |
| 4 Volumes. | | | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., modern. | Faculties. Act of Consecration. |
| <hr/> | |

PENGE. HOLY TRINITY.

I.—1874—1910. Ba., 3. 1874—1910. Ma., 3.
6 Volumes.

II.—*Nil.*

PENGE. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

I.—1850—1910. Ba., 6. 1869—1910. Ma., 5.
11 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1851—1910. V. M. Bk., 1869—1910.

PENGE. ST. PAUL.

I.—1867—1910. Ba., 4. 1867—1910. Ma., 3.
7 Volumes.

II.—Map of Parish. No other particulars given.

PENSHURST. ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1676. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1676—1726. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1726—1812. | " | Bu., 1. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 11 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Ma. begin 1648. An entry shews that the previous Ma. were lost.

1644—1650. Clumsily written, probably by John Mandit.

Marriages, 1647—1812, printed by Mr. P. W. Phillimore.

Memo. in Reg. 1, by Henry Hammond, Rector 1633—1650, that he had on Physician's Certificate given licence to Sir John Rivers and his lady to eat flesh for 8 days during Lent under Statute Elizabeth 5th. This licence he renewed and registered in the presence of Records of Parish Bounds walked at intervals.

II.—Terrier and Inventory, 1896. Two maps of Parish. Three plans of Glebe, 1735, 1815, 1906. Record of the erection of three almshouses by Sir John Sidney and the addition of two others by subscription; no endowment. An annual charge on land in Cowden and Penshurst of £2 10s. for the Poor; on land in Penshurst of £1 10s. for ringing the Curfew Bell.

PLATT. ST. MARY.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|------------|
| I.—1885—1910. | Ba., 1. | 1885—1910. | Bu., 1. |
| „ | Ma., 1. | „ | 3 Volumes. |

Separated from Wrotham, 1846. In Dec. 1885 all the Registers were stolen and burnt.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk.

PLAXTOL. No Dedication.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1648—1803. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ba., 1804—1812. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Bu., 1804—1812. | 12 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1 begins "A booke wherein are contained all the Marriages, Christenings and Burials wthin the Parish of Plaxtoll from the 25th Day of March 1648 about weh time the said Plaxtoll was made a Parish by Ordinance of Parliament," in the hand of Thos. Hayward, Parish Clerk.

1648—1653, only Ba. Complete gaps, 1654—1695; 1705—1708, and 1778—1792. Acct. of wages, 1654. "Account of Fees." Confirmation, 1796. Contributions for the Defence of the country.

Reg. 1—4 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

There is an oak chest painted white about 1700.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1846—1910. Inventory, 1846.

RIDLEY. ST. PETER.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1626—1757. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 1. |
| 2. Mx., 1749—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1812. | „ | Bu., 1. |
| | 7 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1. Unbound.

1644—1660. Normal. Various gaps not inconsistent with the size and population of the Parish.

Mem°.—Gift of a Chalice, 1702, by Mrs. Jane Selby (dau. of Henry Stacey, quondam Rector). Gift of a Pulpit Cloth, 1706, by the wife of the Rector, J. Ratie. List of Rectors, 1562—1802.

Reg. 2. List of Rectors, 1802—1893.

Reg. 3. Repairs of the Church, 1754—1796.

Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1696—1747. Terrier in Reg. 1, 1666. Abstract of Deed of the Stone Castle Charity (Archdeacon Plume's), of which the Rector is always one.

RIVERHEAD. ST. MARY.

I.—1864—1910. Ba., 2. 1864—1910. Bu., 2.
" Ma., 1. 5 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 2 vols. Map of Parish.

ROCHESTER. ST. MARGARET.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1639—1679. | 6. Mx., 1783—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1674—1702. | 7. Ma., 1754—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1701—1717. | 1813—1910. Ba., 6. |
| 4. Mx., 1717—1745. | " Ma., 9. |
| 5. Mx., 1746—1781. | " Bu., 6. |

28 Volumes.

Reg. 1 refers to an older book which is lost. Ba. and Ma. begin 1653.

1644—1660. The "Publications of Marriages" till 1659 are entered by a skilled writer; burials clear, but not by a notary. Ma., 1653—57, by a J.P. or the Mayor; from 1657 by the Minister. From 1659 entries are in tabular form, no space for Ministers' names. From 1659—9 ninety-nine births are entered and only five Baptisms. From 1660 Baptisms begin regularly. Latin, 1660—1666. Indexed to 1856.

II.—Ov. Acc., 1819—1910. V. M. Bk., 1819—1910.

ROCHESTER. ST. PETER.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1860—1910. Ba., 6. | 1869—1910. Bu., 4. |
| 1861—1910. Ma., 4. | 14 Volumes. |

Burials entered in St. Margaret's Reg. before 1869. Since 1893 at Cemetery.

II.—V. M. Bk., kept by Vestry Clerk. Preachers' Book, 2 vols.

ROCHESTER. ST. NICHOLAS.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1624—1672. | 12. Ma., 1760—1779. |
| 2. Mx., 1653—1673. | 13. Ma., 1779—1799. |
| 3. Ba., 1673—1693. | 14. Ma., 1798—1811. |
| 4. Ba., 1693—1718. | 15. Ma., 1811—1812. |
| 5. Ba., 1713—1745. | 16. Bu., 1673—1704. |
| 6. Ba., 1745—1774. | 17. Bu., 1704—1756. |
| 7. Ba., 1774—1799. | 18. Bu., 1757—1806. |
| 8. Ba., 1799—1812. | 19. Bu., 1806—1812. |
| 9. Ma., 1673—1727. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 10. Ma., 1727—1753. | " Ma., 5. |
| 11. Ma., 1754—1760. | " Bu., 3. |

30 Volumes.

Reg. I. Under Bu. six pages have been cut out, 1653—1660, also six pages at end. Except this there is no decrease of entries, 1644—60, and no evidence of Civil Ma. and Registrar.

A long list of plague deaths, 1666.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1661—1766; 1824—1911, 3 vols. Brief Bk., 1623—1754. V. M. Bk. with Vestry Clerk. Two Tithe Maps. Two Church Plans. Faculties, 1905, 1909.

ROCHESTER, BORSTAL. ST. MATTHEW.

I.—1879—1910. Ba., 2. 1902—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk. Inventory, 1910. Map of Parish. Faculties. Conveyances of School Site and Vicarage Site.

RUSTHALL. ST. PAUL.

I.—1850—1910. Ba., 5. 1850—1910. Bu., 4.
1864—1910. Ma., 2. 11 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1878—1910, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1860—1910, 2 vols. Plan of Churchyard.

RYARSH. ST. MARTIN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 2. |
| 2. Ma., 1755—1812. | " Bu., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 3. | 9 Volumes. |
| 1644—60. As usual. | |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1691—1846. V. M. Bk., 1869—1910. Terrier.
Inventory.

SEAL. ST. PETER.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1654—1734. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 4. |
| 2. Mx., 1735—1777. | " | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Mx., 1776—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | | 12 Volumes. |

Reg. 1 has entries stuck in Ba., 1576—79; Ma., 1598—1600;
Bu., 1577—80, all of the same name.

1644—1660. Ba. and Bu.; no Ma.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1820—1910, 2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1842—1910.
Labour Rate, 1830—33. Charities of Bickerstaffe, Pelset,
Porter, Baker, Randolph.

SEAL. ST. LAWRENCE.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|------------|
| I.—1868—1910. | Ba., 1. | 1868—1910. | Bu., 1. |
| " | Ma., 1. | | 3 Volumes. |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1870—1910. Terrier.

SEAL, UNDERRIVER. ST. MARGARET.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|------------|
| I.—1878—1910. | Ba., 1. | 1889—1910. | Bu., 1. |
| " | Ma., 1. | | 3 Volumes. |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1897—1910. V. M. Bk., 1878—1910. Inventory.

SEVENOAKS. ST. NICHOLAS.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1659. | 10. Mx., 1745—1756. |
| 2. Mx., 1660—1664. | 11. Mx., 1757—1780. |
| 3. Mx., 1670—1705. | 12. Mx., 1781—1812. |
| 4. Mx., 1695—1705. | 13. Ma., 1754—1777. |
| 5. Mx., 1705—1713. | 14. Ma., 1777—1800. |
| 6. Mx., 1713—1721. | 15. Ma., 1800—1812. |
| 7. Bu., 1712—1754. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 8. Mx., 1721—1747. | " Ma., 5. |
| 9. Mx., 1732—1743. | " Bu., 4. |
| | 28 Volumes. |

Reg. 2 and 4 are in one volume. Gap, Ba., 1664—1670; Ma.,
1664—1668.

1644—1660. Entries as usual; till 1646 by Thos. Kentish, Minister put in by Parliament; then irregular hand till 1653; then in hand of Richard Bosse, Registrar, who afterwards became Vicar. In 1654 Ba. are called “Baptizings.”

Entries worthy of note are given in *Notes on the History of the Parish Church of Sevenoaks*, by J. Rooker, Rector.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1796—1806. Ov. Acc., 1690—1712; 1721—1748; 1814—1820. Accts. of Trustees of Church Repairs, 1812, 2 vols. Clerks' Notice Book, 1808—18. Clerks' Fee Book, 1812—1885. Preachers' Book, 1825, 1875—1892. Inventory. Faculties.

SEVENOAKS. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

I.—1877—1910. Ba., 2. 1877—1910. Ma., 2.
4 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., and Inventory.

SEVENOAKS, KIPPINGTON. ST. MARY AND ST. LUKE.

I.—1878—1910. Ba., 2. 1880—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.

One for St. Mary's and one for St. Luke's.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1880—1911. Terrier, 1898.

SHIPBOURNE. ST. GILES.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1658—1792. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1793—1812. | “ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | “ | Bn., 2. |
| | 9 Volumes. | |

Reg. 1 has four paper pages. The earliest register before 1658 is lost. Rev. F. Brown, Vicar 1808—1854, is supposed to have died with it in his possession. His successor, Rev. T. Fitz-Wygram, failed, after much enquiry, to find it.

1644—1660. Forty entries, chiefly Ba., some Bu., one Ma.

Registers to 1812 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

In the Crypt of the Church there is to be seen a lead coffin containing the remains of the famous Sir Harry Vane, who was beheaded on Tower Hill, June 14, 1662. He owned Fairlawne, a large house just outside the bounds of the Parish, the present owner being Mr. W. M. Cazalet, Patron and Lord of the Manor.

The Kentish Poet, Christopher Smart, was baptized here on May 11, 1722, his father being Lord Barnard's bailiff.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1866—1910. Ov. Acc. Brief Book, 1677—1783.
 V. M. Bk., 1876—1910. Terriers, one to date; two old ones
 in Rochester Diocesan Registry. Inventory. Charities of
 Francis Collins, John Swan, Stephen Fremlyn. Faculties of
 new Church and Churchyard.
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SHOREHAM. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1728. | 5. Mx., 1791—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1728—1790. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 3. Bu., 1728—1790. | „ Ma., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ Bu., 3. |
- 13 Volumes.

Reg. 1 has Burials to 1702, rest in Reg. 2. Rebound; numerous gaps.

1644—1660. By various hands, carefully written. Baptisms included.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1826—1910, 3 vols. V. M. Bk., 1772—1873. Plan of Churchyard. Conveyance of site of Mission Room. Parish Boundary Marks, 1826.
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SHORNE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1654. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1640—1812. | „ Ma., 2. |
| 3. Bu., 1678—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 10 Volumes. |
- Gaps, Ba., 1550—56; 1575—83; 1645—51. Ma., 1547—57; 1575—83; 1623—54. Bu., 1548—56; 1574—83; 1641—44. Latin, 1672—1738.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1781—1794. Ov. Acc., 1630—1830. Surveyors', 1794—1809. Certificates, 1699—1768. Highways, 1781—1794. Briefs, 1706—16, 1805, 1810. V. M. Bk., 1772—1910.
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SIDCUP. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1844—1910. Ba., 2. | 1844—1910. Bu., 3. |
| „ Ma., 2. | 7 Volumes. |

- II.—No particulars given.
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SIDCUP. CHRIST CHURCH.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1901—1910. Ba., 2. | 1901—1910. Ma., 1. |
| | 3 Volumes. |

- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk.
-

SNODLAND. ALL SAINTS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1680. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 6. |
| 2. Bu., 1678—1739. | „ | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1739—1812. | „ | Bu., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 16 Volumes. | |

Gap in Ba. and Ma., 1680—1739.

Reg. 1, 1559—1603, appears to have been copied by Wm. Lewis in 1781.

1644—1660. Ba. in irregular order. No Ma., 1641—48, and then none till 1660. No Bu., 1644—1658.

There is an oak chest with slits for coins. Peter's Pence Chest (?).

II.—Chw. Acc., 1863—1910. V. M. Bk., 1892—1910.

SOUTHFLEET. ST. NICHOLAS.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1724. | 1813—1910. | Ba. 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1724—1812. | „ | Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1755—1812. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 9 Volumes. | | |

Latin, 1558—1600. Burial of Sir Charles Sedley, Poet, 1701. Parish Bounds in Reg. 1.

Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

An old chest, apparently used as an Alms-Box.

II.—Briefs in Reg. 2, 1725-9. Terrier, 1776. Inventory, 1729 and 1843.

SPELDHURST. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, WITH GROOMBRIDGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1701. | 6. Ma., 1754—1798. |
| 2. Bu., 1678—1701. | 7. Ma., 1798—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1700—1738. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 4. Mx., 1738—1777. | „ Ma., 4. |
| 5. Mx., 1777—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |

17 Volumes.

Reg. 1 contains terrier of glebe; also 12 loose parchment pages of Ba., 1592—97, signed by J. Charte, Vicar of Ligne; Bu., 1638—39; 1643—46; found at Groombridge in 1906.

Reg. 2 contains list of 93 people assessed, 1666, to keep the "Church-marks," i.e., the Churchyard walls.

1644—1660. Entries very sparse, by Rector or Clerk from memory. Latin or Elizabethan English till 1603. Copied, 1538—1800, by present Rector. See Rev. D. D. Mackinnon, *History of the Parish of Speldhurst*.

An oak chest with three spaces where locks have been and a slit for Peter-pence, therefore pre-Reformation.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1601—1910. Parish Bk., 1703—1775, 3 vols. Ov. Acc., a few, nineteenth century. V. M. Bk., 1804—1910. Terrier in Reg., 1724, transcribed “from an old parchment Register book about ye year 1700.” Map, 1818. Deeds of Speldhurst, Rusthall, Langton Green, and Groombridge Schools, all in the ancient parish of Speldhurst.

SPELDHURST, GROOMBRIDGE. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1777—1812. | 3. Ma., 1897—1910. |
| 2. Ba., 1848—1910. | 4. Bu., 1849—1910. |
| • | 4 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Copied from “slips” or “stamped papers” by William Gordon, whose name is on every page. No Ma. Most of the entries refer to Speldhurst, many “at Tunbridge Wells Chapel.”

The missing volume or volumes, 1812—1848, have not been known within the last 40 years. 1777, Bapt. at Tunbridge Wells one child said to be the son of Sam. and Eliz. Lucas, “Comedians.” 1779, Two children are described as daughters of couples who are “of Captain Worstnam’s and Captain Salter’s companies of Herefordshire Militia.” Nick-names of several deceased are given: “Scanty,” “Smug,” “London Tom,” “Lord Hilder,” “My Lord.”

Burials, 1794, of “Francis Augustin Le Blond, Curé d’Alliance du Diocese d’Amiens, Picardie.” 1796, “Bernard Louis Dumesnil, Marquis Doussigné, Colonel des Dragons, Chevalier de l’Ordre Militaire de St. Louis.” 1797, “Maitre André Nicholas Henitault, Prêtre Francais.” 1797, “Maitre André Nicholas Heurtault, Prêtre Francoise.” They were probably refugees from the French Revolution.

STANSTED. ST. MARY.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1564—1704. | 1813—1910. Ba., 2. |
| 2. Mx., 1704—1812. | “ Ma., 2. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1799. | “ Bu., 1. |
| 4. Ma., 1800—1817. | 9 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Some leaves missing, some torn. There is a paper copy, 1695—1707, stitched in Reg. 2. Gap, 1781—1786.

1644—1660. “The Purpose of Matrimonie was made before Registrars and signed by them.” A Minister is occasionally mentioned.

Reg. 1—4 copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Ov. Acc., 1323—1837. Briefs in Reg. 2. V. M. Bk., 1836—1910. Terrier and Inventory.

STOKE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1666—1761. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1755—1813. | „ | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 2. |
| 11 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1. Baptisms, 1736—1761, and Burials, 1755—1759, “are transcribed from a quarto paper book by Rich^d Hancorn, Vicar.”

An earlier volume is in the custody of the Society of Antiquarians, MS. CLXXX., intituled “Registrum de Stoke. Incipit anno 1559, Gulielmus Hubbart fuit Vicarins.” It contains Ba., 1575—1662; Ma., 1573—1655; Bu., 1560—1666. This Register with all the present Registers has been transcribed by the late Vicar, Rev. T. J. Cleave Warne.

There is an ancient deed chest.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1806—1840, 2 vols. Church Rate Book, 1834—1873. Poor Relief Book, 1740, 1828—1836, 2 vols. Several Highway Books. V. M. Bk., 1810—1910.

STONE. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1718—1768. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 7. |
| 2. Mx., 1768—1812. | „ | Ma., 5. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | „ | Bu., 3 |
| 18 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 2 contains account of the Charities and Church Restoration in 1861.

Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1739—1808; 1734—1770. Rate Book, 1762—1764; 1765—1792; 1820—1836. V. M. Bk., 1832—1856. Terrier. Inventory. School Trust Deed. Conveyances of Old Stone and Swanscombe Schools, 1873; Milestone Road School, 1880; Iron Church Site, 1854; Milestone Road Church, 1878, 1870, 1883; Site of Rectory, 1863, and another, 1863. Q. A. B. Mortgage, 1863. Nine Tithe Redemption Deeds. Four Abstracts of Title, 1863, 1878, 1876, 1876. Trustee of Neame’s Will, 1876. Agreement with Burial Board, 1876.

STROOD. ST. MARY.

I.—1869—1910. Ba., 3. 1869—1910. Ma., 2.
5 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. B.

STROOD. ST. NICHOLAS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1565—1639. | 7. Ma., 1780—1802. |
| 2. Mx., 1653—1695. | 8. Ma., 1802—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1695—1715. | 1813—1910. Ba., 8. |
| 4. Mx., 1715—1789. | „ Ma., 7. |
| 5. Mx., 1790—1812. | „ Bu., 5. |
| 6. Ma., 1754—1780. | 28 Volumes. |

Reg. 1 and 2. Gap between 1639 and 1653.

Reg. 2. Page torn out, 1666—67.

1653—60 has entries Ma. by Magistrate's Clerk.

II.—No information given. Rev. J. Charles Cox, LL.D., states that the early Chw. Acc., 1555—1763, are in the British Museum, Add. MS. 36,937.

SUNDRIDGE. No dedication.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1562—1655. | 6. Ma., 1754—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1653—1710. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Mx., 1711—1754. | „ Ma., 3. |
| 4. Mx., 1754—1808. | „ Bu., 3. |
| 5. Mx., 1809—1812. | 16 Volumes. |

1644—1660. Fewer entries; no births or civil marriages.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1781—1877. Acc. of Charities, 1816—1895.
V. M. Bk., 1891—1911. Inventory.

SUTTON-AT-HONE.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1607—1812. | 1813—1910. Ma., 3. |
| 2. Ma., 1755—1812. | „ Bu., 2. |
| 1813—1910. Ba., 3. | 10 Volumes. |
| 1644—1660. As usual. | |
| Latin : Bu., 1695—1705. | |

II.—Chw. Acc., 1747—1910. Ov. Acc., 1747—1843. Brief Bk., 1734—1762. V. M. Bk., 1772—1910. Two plans of Vicarage and Glebe.

SWANLEY. ST. PAUL.

I.—1861—1910. Ba., 1. 1861—1910. Bu., 1.
,, Ma., 1. 3 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1885—1910.

SWANLEY. ST. MARY.

I.—1901—1910. Ba., 1. 1901—1910. Bu., 1.
,, Ma., 1. 3 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk.

SWANSCOMBE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

I.—1. Mx., 1559—obliterated. 1813—1910. Ba., 7.
2. Mx., 1759—1796. „ Ma., 5.
3. Ma., 1754—1812. „ Bu., 6.
21 Volumes.

Reg. 1 almost unreadable; damaged by fire and water.
Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1698, damaged by fire and water. Ov. Acc., 1703
—1869, 5 vols. V. M. Bk., 1834—1860.

SWANSCOMBE. ALL SAINTS.

I.—1885—1910. Ba., 3. 1895—1910. Ma., 2.
5 Volumes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1899—1910. V. M. Bk., 1888—1911. Inventory,
1902—1910. Plan of Church.

SWANSCOMBE. GREENHITHE. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

I.—1857—1910. Ba., 3. 1858—1910. Ma., 1.
4 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1858—1910. Ordnance Map.

TESTON. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

I.—1. Mx., 1538—1685. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.
2. Mx., 1683—1809. „ Ma., 2.
3. Ma., 1753—1811. „ Bu., 1.
4. Mx., 1789—1812. „ 9 Volumes.

Reg. 1 consists of 12 strips of parchment of various length between 2 ft. 2 in. and 1 ft. 1 in., and width $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. and $6\frac{1}{4}$ in., stitched together at the top, written on both sides in the same hand till 1601. After 1552 there is "From this year untill the yeare of our Lord God, 1556, I can find no record of anie Register." These strips were transcribed into a bound volume in 1885. Reg. 4 is a paper book bound in leather, in which are carefully mounted scraps recording Baptisms, 1789—1812, and Burials, 1789—1795.

There are many gaps, but not inconsistent with the small population of the Parish.

1644—1660. Nothing marked; 1653 and 1654, Marriages by Augustine Skynner, Esq., of West Farleigh and the Maior of Maidstone. In 1651—53 there were 10, 12 and 14 marriages, mostly from near parishes; in 1677 there were 17 marriages from near parishes.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1868—1910. V. M. Bk., 1840—1910. Terriers, 1634, 1716, 1757, and modern. Inventory. Exchange of Glebe, 1759.

TONBRIDGE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1553—1688. | 7. Ba., 1794—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1688—1728. | 8. Bu., 1794—1823. |
| 3. Mx., 1729—1794. | 1813—1910. Ba., 6. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1772. | " Ma., 9. |
| 5. Ma., 1772—1790. | " Bu., 4. |
| 6. Ma., 1790—1812. | 27 Volumes. |

Reg. 1. Parchment, but original Paper; Ba., 1553—58; Ma., 1558—85; Bu., 1547—61. Several parchment leaves are cut out, and the original paper leaves are left loosely inserted.

1644—1660. Baptisms, 1015. Burials, 1142. Fewer Marriages. Entries all in one hand.

Gaps, 1558—85; 1589—93; 1600—05; 1637—40; 1650—53 (Ba.); 1636—39 (Bu.); 1673—80.

Gaps between Reg. 1 and 2, 1685—1688. Reg. 1 partly copied by Miss Wadmore.

There is a chest dated 1813, 5 lock bolts.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1698—1713. Briefs in Reg. 1, 1559—1688; 1688—1728. V. M. Bk., 1827—42. Inventory to date. Old Tithe Map, 1743. Church plans. Faculty, 1874—82.

TONBRIDGE. ST. STEPHEN.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1852—1910. Ba., 4. | 1852—1910. Bu., 1, |
| " Ma., 4. | 9 Volumes. |

II.—V. M. Bk., Inventory. Map.

TONBRIDGE. HILDENBOROUGH. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

- I.—1844—1910. Ba., 4.
,, Ma., 2. 1844—1910. Bu., 2.
8 Volumes.
- II.—V. M. Bk., 1860—1910, 3 vols. Inventory, 1907. Map.
Faculty, 1900. Subscription List, and Letter *re* Design of
Church, 1842.
-

TONBRIDGE. SOUTHBOROUGH. ST. PETER WITH CHRIST CHURCH.

- I.—1. Ba., 1831—1910. 2. 3. Bu., 1831—1810. 3.
2. Ma., 1845—1910. 3. 8 Volumes.
Christ Church has Ba., 1888—1910.
- II.—Chw. Acc., 1900—1910. Christ Church has Chw. Acc., 1872—1910 and V. M. Bk., 1890—1910. Charities of Osborne, Burt, Woolley, Rosebank. Bishop's Order for Bauns and Marriages, 1845. Christ Church has List of Seats and Rents and Note of Consecration.
-

TONBRIDGE. SOUTHBOROUGH. ST. MATTHEW.

- I.—1902—1910. Ba., 1. 1902—1910. Bu., 1.
,, Ma., 2. 4 Volumes.

II.—No information given.

TONBRIDGE. SOUTHBOROUGH. ST. THOMAS.

- I.—1860—1910. Ba., 2. 1872—1910. Ma., 1.
3 Volumes.
- II.—Chw. Acc. and V. M. Bk., 1861—1910. Inventory. Plans of
Church.
-

TROTTISCLIFFE. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

- I.—1. Mx., 1540—1812. 1813—1910. Ba., 2.
2. Ma., 1754—1812. „ Ma., 2.
3. Ba., 1798—1812. „ Bu., 2.
9 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Gap, 1643—4.

1644—60. Ba. and Bu. by Clergy; Ma. by Registrar.

Latin, 1676—8. Two Briefs. Copied by T. Colyer-Fergusson.

II.—No information given.

TUDELEY. ALL SAINTS WITH CAPEL. ST. THOMAS À BECKET.

- I.—1. Mx., 1663—1681.
 2. Mx., 1702—1787.
 3. Mx., 1708—1738.
 4. Mx., 1738—1812.
 5. Ma., 1755—1807.
 6. Ma., 1807—1812.
 7. Ba., 1813—1835. } Tudeley cum Capel.
 8. Ba., 1835—1910. } 2. Tudeley.
 9. Ma., 1813—1837. } Tudeley cum Capel.
 10. Ma., 1837—1910. } Tudeley.
 11. Bu., 1813—1836. } Tudeley cum Capel.
 12. Bu., 1836—1910. } Tudeley.

Capel. St. Luke's Mission Church.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ma., 1754—1812. | 1. Ba., 1894—1910. |
| 2. Ba., 1813—1910. | 2. 19 Volumes. |
| 3. Ma., 1838—1910. | |
| 4. Bu., 1834—1910. | |

- II.—Chw. Acc., Tudeley, 1744—1884; Capel, 1784—1910. Ov. Acc., Tudeley, 1666—79, 1766—1829. Capel, 1764—93, 1820—31. V. M. Bk., Capel, 1867. Terriers, 1634, 1662, 1663, 1666, 1675, 1724, 1757, 1816. Capel Inventory, 1867. Census, 1803—Tudeley, 442; Capell, 279.
-

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. HOLY TRINITY.

- I.—Ba., 1830—1910. 5. Bu., 1830—1910. 4.
 Ma., 1833—1910. 8. 17 Volumes.

- II.—Church Rate Book. A few Minute Books. No other information given.
-

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. ST. JAMES.

- I.—1862—1910. Ba., 3. 1862—1910. Ma., 3.
 6 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc. V. M. Bk. Inventory. Map.
-

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. CHRIST CHURCH.

- I.—1856—1910. Ba., 2. 1856—1910. Ma., 1.
 3 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc.
-

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. ST. JOHN.

I.—1858—1910. Ba., 5. 1858—1910. Ma., 3.
8 Volumes.

II.—No information given.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. ST. PETER.

I.—1875—1910. Ba., 3. 1875—1910. Ma., 2.
5 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1876.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. ST. BARNABAS.

I.—Ba., 1881—1910. 4. Ma., 1893—1910. 1.
5 Volumes.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1893—1910.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. KING CHARLES THE MARTYR.

I.—Births or Baptisms; copies of the entries are supposed to have been sent to the respective parishes.

- 1745—1759. Tonbridge.
 - 1759—1767. Tonbridge.
 - 1772—1798. Probably Tonbridge.
 - 1802—1807. Tonbridge.
 - 1804—1808. do.
 - 1808—1813. do.
 - 1745—1762. Probably Speldhurst.
 - 1745—1747. Speldhurst.
 - 1808—1813. do.
 - 1745—1746. Frant.
 - 1740—1812. do.
 - 1813—1845. Tonbridge, Frant and Speldhurst.
 - 1845—1910. do. do.
- till 1889, then King Charles the Martyr.
Ma., 1889—1910, 2 vols. King Charles the Martyr.

Note.—This Church was originally a Chapel of Ease to Tonbridge, situated in Tonbridge, Frant and Speldhurst; opened 1682; consecrated 1887; made a parish 1889. There are minutes regarding the management by a Committee of the Chapel and the Maintenance of the Charity School connected with the Chapel.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1709—1893, 4 vols. V. M. Bk., 1709—1872,
2 vols. Three Faculties since 1900. Subscriptions to
Building, 1676—1684; enlarging 1688—1696.

WATERINGBURY. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1705—1767. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1767—1812. | " | Ma., 4. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 12 Volumes. | | |

Reg. 1 has on inside cover (?) in the handwriting of the Rev. George Charlton: "Raf Calverley, Vicar of Watringbury, buried June 11, 1587. Thomas Brand, buried Jan. 25, 1620. Francis Warrell, buried May 29, 1652. Benjamin Cutter, buried May 26, 1693. James Hunter, died Aug. 29, 1729, aged 80." And in a later hand: "George Charlton, died 20 Dec^r, bur^d Dec^r 27, 1734, aged 39. He rebuilt the Vicarage House, stable, &c., at the Expense of about four Hundred pounds. And having by the Favour of the Bishop, Chancellour & Archdeacon obtained 100^l of Sr W^m Langhorn's Legacy & fifteen guineas from the Dean & Chapter of Rochester He added the residue to make it up 200^l, & thereby intituled this Vicarage to Queen Ann's Bounty of 200^l to augment it for ever. E.B."

Large wooden chest in Vestry.

Iron safe in Vicarage.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1676—1910, 4 vols. Ov. Acc., 1771—1910, 8 vols.
Rate Book, 1783—1847, 4 vols. Highways, 1773—1816,
2 vols. V. M. Bk., 1819—1910. Reg. of Apprentices,
1804. Map of Parish, 1838.

Bundle of Bastardy Orders.

*Copy of Terrier of Canons Court Parsonage (1730).

*Copy of Terrier and Valuation of the Rectory of Wateringbury, leased to Robt. Scoles (no date).

*Copy of Lease of Woodlands (Parsonage of Wateringbury, 1751).

*Copy of Lease of the Parsonage of Wateringbury (1801).

MS. volume, entitled "Vicarage of Wateringbury," containing valuation of the Vicarial Tithe revised in 1801, and particulars of composition by agreement between Dr. Willis (Vicar) and certain tithe-payers for 5 years from Oct. 1802; also copy of Tithe Apportionment; also copy of "Some Anecdotes of the Parish of Wateringbury to the year 1781, by Edward Greensted;" and "Records of the Parish during the Incumbency of the Rev. Spencer Phillips."

Papers relating to Oliver Style and Henry Wood Charities.

Ditto enlargement of the Church in 1824.

* Obtained and deposited by present Vicar.

Letters relating to erection of new Vestry (1838).

Papers relating to new Organ and heating apparatus (1838).

MS. volume, Valuation of the Parish (1838).

Tithe Apportionment (1841), with map (1839). Extraordinary Tithe Redemption Certificate (1888) with map. Various altered apportionments.

*Copy of Bounds of Parish walked in 1840.

*Plan of Church, shewing new S. aisle and seating (1856).

Plan of Glebe lands (1869).

Terrier of Vicarage (1870), containing reference to "part of Forge Field, containing 5a. 2r. 29p., made over in the year 1845 by award of the Tithe Comm. as Glebe Land, in exchange for 5a., part of Mill Field and part of Wateringbury Place Park," with further note of purchase of remainder of Forge Field by Queen Anne's Bounty (1879).

MS. account of Wateringbury and Church by Henry Stevens, Vicar.

*Plan of Church, shewing enlargement of chancel and N. aisle (1883-4), with Papers.

Plans of re-erection of Church spire after fire (1886).

Papers relating to new organ (1893).

*Modern Terrier.

Papers relating to old pews. *Counsel's opinion as to Chancel.

WEALD. ST. GEORGE.

I.—Ba., 1861—1910. 2. Ma., 1862—1910. 1.
3 Volumes.

Formerly part of Sevenoaks.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1862—1910, 2 vols. Archdeacons' Visitation Book, 1848—1910. Terrier Map in London and County Bank.

WESTERHAM. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1670. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 3. |
| 2. Mx., 1670—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Bu., 1724—1812. | " | Bu., 2. |
| 4. Ma., 1754—1812. | 12 Volumes. | |

1678—1748. The original "burial in woollen" register copied in Reg. 2 and 3.

Duplicate of Ba., 1793—1812, on parchment entered in Reg. 2. Gaps, Ma., 1678—84, 1688—95; Ba., 1668—70, between Reg. 1 and 2.

1644—66. Entries complete; Births, 1652—60; Ma., with dates of banns.

* Obtained and deposited by present Vicar.

Matthew Everest elected " Register " 1653.

There is a Deed Chest, wood, iron bound, three locks, eighteenth century.

Marriage Reg., 1559—1837, printed by W. P. W. Phillimore. Reg., 1559—1670, transcribed. Extracts from Chw. Acc. printed by Mr. Leverson in a small history of Westerham.

II.—Chw. Acc., 1662—1742, 2 vols. Ov. Acc., 1613—1815, 6 vols. Three Assessment Books, 1816, 1820, 1841. Highways, 1782—1815. Inventory, 1764, 1900. Plan of Vicarage and Map of parts of Westerham and Brasted in Reg. 3. Architects' Restoration plans. Agreement about chimes, 1706. Four accounts of Beating Bounds, 1718—1863. Letters Patent, 1 Queen Anne, granting Sir Edward Gresham market on 2nd Tuesday in each month and Fair on 22nd and 23rd April each year for ever. A box of deeds relating to Charities and leases in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Seven bundles of apprenticeship Indentures (seventeenth century), and papers about Settlements.

WILMINGTON. ST. MICHAEL.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1683—1793. | 1813—1910. | Ba., 5. |
| 2. Mx., 1794—1812. | " | Ma., 3. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1812. | " | Bu., 3. |

14 Volumes.

First Reg., 1541—1604, entirely destroyed by rats and mice.

1745, 35 soldiers died in Hospital (mansion of the Langworth Family). Troops encamped on Dartford Heath. 1750, Second Camp, four soldiers died; all buried on north side.

Two Faculty pews of Wilmington House, 1726; Church repewed, 1778; enlarged 1884.

II.—V. M. Bk., 1768—1910, 3 vols. Terrier, 1834. Inventory, 1910. Plans of Church, 1884, 1909. Churchyard, 1905. Consecration, 1802, 1905. Charities: Wheat and peas at Easter, 1541; Lake, 1604; Sir Thomas Smythe, 1621; Round, 1631; Poultier, 1637; Bathurst, 1666, 1742; Langworth, 1708; Allen, 1896. Faculties, 1897, 1900, 1901, 1904. Glebe Exchange, 1873. Church site, 1910. Valuation, 1838. Confirmation Reg., 1905—1910. Preacher's Book, 1892—1910.

WOODLANDS. ST. MARY.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—Ba., 1850—1910. 1. | Bu., 1850—1910. 1. |
| Ma., 1851—1910. 1. | 3 Volumes. |

II.—No information given.

WOULDHAM. ALL SAINTS.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1538—1722. | 5. Ma., 1756—1808. |
| 2. Mx., 1722—1791. | 1813—1910. Ba., 3. |
| 3. Mx., 1722—1801. | " Ma., 3. |
| 4. Mx., 1802—1812. | " Bu., 2. |

13 Volumes.

Reg. 3, part copy of Reg. 2.

Reg. 4. Some entries in duplicate.

Gap in Ba., Bu., 1641; Ma., 1642—3.

1644—1660. An unusually large number of Marriages, 25 in 1649, entered in Latin. Births and Baptisms, Latin, 1538—1615; 1634—1661. Records of earthquakes felt in London, Feb. 8 and Mar. 5, 1749. "An uncommon redness in the sky from East to West, with streamers, Jan. 23, 1749." The fact that this aurora preceded the earthquakes, and is connected with them by the recorder, seems somewhat interesting.

1815. Walter Burke buried 15th Sept., aged 70, Purser of H.M.S. "Victory," "and in his arms the immortal Nelson died."

II.—Chw. Acc., 1784—1894. Briefs, 1722—55, in Reg. 2.
V. M. Bk., 1857—1910.

WROTHAM. ST. GEORGE.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1558—1755. | 5. Bu., 1678—1812. |
| 2. Mx., 1756—1813. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 3. Ma., 1754—1786. | " Ma., 3. |
| 4. Ma., 1786—1812. | " Bu., 2. |

14 Volumes.

Reg. 1. Sets of leaves torn; illegible, 1718—1720.

Reg. 5 contains briefs.

1644—1660. Entries as usual, presumably by Rector; 1645—57, the dates are entered "Regno Car. 2. 1," "Carolus 2. 13." Illegitimacy entered "filia nullius."

Three Certificates, 1685, by Vicar and Churchwardens of being touched for "ye King's evil." Licence to eat flesh in Lent granted to Alkyna wife of E. Potter, Gent., "fish being contrary to her," signed William Steed, Incumbent; undated. House to House Collection for rebuilding of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London; John Rayney, Borronet, 2s.; John Williams, Vicar, 5s.; others 1d. to 6d. Thomas Tonlyn and T. Caverley "contemptuous refused," alleging that it was a "nursery of Popery."

II.—Chw. Acc., 1746—1822, 7 vols. Ov. Acc., 1713—1782, 5 vols.
Brief Bk., 1680—1768, and some in Reg. 5.

YALDING. ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| I.—1. Mx., 1559—1667. | 6. Ma., 1754—1790. |
| 2. Mx., 1653—1744. | 7. Ma., 1790—1812. |
| 3. Mx., 1728—1789. | 1813—1910. Ba., 4. |
| 4. Mx., 1790—1812. | „ Ma., 4. |
| 5. Bu., 1614—1648. | „ Bu., 2. |

17 Volumes.

There seem to be two Ba. Reg., 1653—67, with different entries.

1644—60. Gaps, Ma., 1648—55, 1679—81; Bu., 1649—53.

Parts of four pages of Bu. Reg. 1639—47 cut out.

1696. Hanging, cost and weight of the bells.

An oak chest, plain, three locks; date unknown.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1720—1910, 5 vols. Ov. Acc., 1628—1827, 12 vols.
 Highways, 1705—1844, 4 vols. V. M. Bks., 1741—1910,
 10 vols. Inventory, 1873. Glebe Map, 1763. Charity
 lands in Tudeley, 1775. Church plan, 1859. Conveyance
 and Consecration of Churchyard, 1857, 1884, 1905. Facul-
 ties, 1898, 1904. Confirmation Reg., 1885—1910. Preachers'
 Bk., 1864, 1891—1910. Valuation, 1846, 1866. Licence
 of Laddingford Chapel, 1884. An old history of English
 Church. Charities: Alkorn, 1711; Cleave and others, 1637;
 Kenward and others, 1621, 1641, and deeds of Charities.

YALDING. COLLIER STREET. ST. MARGARET.

- I.—Ba., 1848—1910. 3. Bu., 1848—1910. 1.
 Ma., 1858—1910. 1. 5 Volumes.

- II.—Chw. Acc., 1891—1911. Churchyard Acc., 1893—1910.
 V. M. Bk., 1858—1911. Inventory, 1901. Faculty pew
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 copy in Inventory.

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